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INSIDE EIGHT PAGES FROM SUNDAY'S The New York Times WEEKLY REVIEW

Ministers threaten to oppose extra NIS 1.8b. budget cut

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Dan Meridor are to present the cabinet today with details of an additional NIS 1.8 billion cut to the 1997 budget.

While the initial NIS 4.9b. cut passed its first reading in the Knesset, coalition MKs from various parties have said they will not support the bill's final readings.

Sharon to Treasury: Hands off our money Page 12 Unless certain changes are made, particularly in the social budget.

will be spent, and we will have a say as to whether it is to be used for rental housing or what... We expect to solve 3,000 housing problems in the coming fiscal year.

Sharansky said his faction's second demand was also met: The government will earmark a sum of NIS 12m. towards helping immigrant scientists.

Sharansky: No change on Reform, Conservative conversion abroad

INDUSTRY and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky said yesterday he opposes any change that would disqualify Reform and Conservative conversions to Judaism abroad.

Sharansky, who has been chosen by the government to explain its position on the proposed conversion law, said that in fact the government as yet has no position.



A border policeman prepares to admit Moslem worshipers to Hebron's Machpela Cave yesterday for special prayers commemorating Mohammed's ascent to heaven.

Eitan: Syrian threats are empty

DAVID RUDGE and news agencies

AGRICULTURE and Environment Minister Rafael Eitan yesterday played down threats from Syria, saying they were the sounds of a chicken squawking in the grass while looking for a seed.

Post during a visit by Tsomet Knesset members and party activists to the Golan Heights yesterday in a gesture of solidarity with residents there.

Abington hopes Washington document will lead to summit

DAVID MAKOVSKY and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

US and Palestinian officials held another round of discussions in Gaza last night to decide if a three-page document drafted in Washington could be the basis of proposals that could be put before Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu today.



Hebron Redevelopment

prefers the security forces be armed only with guns that have short ranges. The three-page document also is believed to include Palestinian insistence that Israel free prisoners and set dates for three future pull-backs stipulated in the Oslo II accord.

blocks were replaced with new, hard plastic barriers. The traffic regulations and the blockades in effect on the street have not been changed.

Grapes of Wrath monitors to probe IDF civilian shelling Beduin tracker laid to rest

DAVID RUDGE

THE five-nation Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee is scheduled to meet at UNIFIL headquarters in Nakoura today to discuss a complaint by the Lebanese government over the wounding of civilians in Tibnit during an exchange of fire Saturday.

ians were hurt in the shelling of their village, north of the security zone. Yesterday Beduin tracker Sgt-Maj. Mohammed Hujairat, 27, of Deir al-Maksour, near Shfaram, who was killed by a Hizbullah roadside bomb Saturday, was laid to rest in the village cemetery.

Rumor of Star of David foils art project at pyramids

CAIRO (AP) - An American artist who wanted to draw a field of stars near the Giza pyramids has had her project halted, after rumors spread that she was drawing the Star of David at Egypt's famed monuments.

been planning the pyramid project for a year as the United States' entry at the Sixth International Cairo Biennale, an art festival starting next Sunday.

was an important image in ancient Egypt. And her previous works of art have involved constellations and viewing earth from outer space.

Star of David or anything of the sort," Albuquerque said. "Just the bee and the honeycomb and 96 stars, plus three Sufi men to represent the last three stars."

about an Egyptian engineer he believes is behind the rumor. "She is a well known artist working on a piece of art and this engineer said she was drawing the Star of David and called up the press, but I have seen her work and there is no Star of David," Hawas said.

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Arnon released on NIS 10,000 bail

THE Ashkelon Magistrate's Court released Hebron settlement spokesman Noam Arnon when he posted a NIS 10,000 bond yesterday, after he promised to show up whenever summoned by police investigating his arrest in the Machpela Cave on Friday night.

Arnon was arrested in the cave on Shabbat trying to return dividers in the cave to their original position. The police said Arnon attacked a police officer who was trying to stop him. Arnon said he was attacked by the police officer who he asked for his name.

Arnon's release ended a great deal of activity on his behalf, including calls from Knesset members to the prime minister, a sit-in in front of the Kiryat Arba police station and a rally in Kiryat Arba last night.

"My arrest was a tragic mistake. They arrested me on Shabbat, without any need. The police got caught up in lies. I maintain that I never attacked anyone, and this will be proven in court," Arnon said after his release. "In any event, I am happy that my release leads us to the conclusion that justice was both done and seen."

The court rejected police requests to extend the remand of Arnon and another man arrested with him, Moshe Shteckel, and said there is no concern that the two will not show up for further investigation.

The judge said the question of whether Arnon attacked the policeman or vice versa should be investigated by the Justice Ministry division dealing with complaints against police.

Prior to Arnon's release, a number of leading Kiryat Arba and Hebron personalities held a protest outside the police station in Kiryat Arba's Givat Ha'avot neighborhood.

Among those who took part were Kiryat Arba Local

HERB KEINON

Council head Zvi Katzover, Geula Cohen, and rabbis Eliezer Waldman, Dov Lior and Moshe Levinger.

Cohen said that considering the tension in Hebron and the insecurity under which the settlers are living, the police should be acting with added sensitivity, not increased aggressiveness. "With the situation so volatile, the police should have acted exactly opposite from the way they did," she said.

Cohen said that even if Arnon did what the police allege, it is no reason to desecrate the Shabbat.

She said that the border police have it in for the settlers in Hebron, and want to show them "who is boss." She said the settlers would prefer for the IDF to deal with these types of matters and not the police. The IDF commanders at the scene asked the police not to arrest Arnon, she said, but were overruled.

Waldman said that the whole incident shows the "hostility with which the police view the settlers." What happened that necessitated desecrating the Shabbat, he asked? "Did he kill somebody, did he pose a danger to the public order?"

Hebron settlement spokesman David Wilder said transporting Arnon on Shabbat was totally unnecessary, since Arnon said he would voluntarily walk to the police station in Givat Ha'avot.

The last time Jews were taken by car to a police station after being arrested on Shabbat was some three years ago, Wilder said. The general rule in the past, when someone was detained on Shabbat, was for them to be held at the Civil Administration building in town. But the police have

since moved out of that building in advance of the redeployment, and have moved to Givat Ha'avot. However, that facility does not have a holding pen for people waiting to be brought before a judge.

Although relations between settlers in the area and the police were rocky under the last government, "in some sense it has calmed down," Wilder said. "But the police hierarchy in Hebron has not changed," he added. "They are bored and have to find something to do."

Police say Shabbat a factor in planning arrests

POLICE try to exercise sensitivity regarding making arrests on Shabbat, especially when they involve the religious, a police spokesman said yesterday.

There are no written regulations regarding Shabbat arrests, the spokesman said, and anyone suspected of breaking the law should take into consideration the possibility that they may be arrested on Shabbat. Each case is judged individually and the final decision rests with the relevant district or sub-district commander.

Arrests are made at demonstrations held on Shabbat and in the case of serious crimes, police do not take into consideration the day or time of day. However, the spokesman insisted that in other cases, police usually do show sensitivity to those who observe Shabbat.

Raina Marcus

Jerusalem planning commission hears objections to Ras al-Amud project

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

THE Jerusalem district planning commission yesterday heard objections to a proposed Jewish housing project in Ras al-Amud in eastern Jerusalem. If the commission approves the plan, it will go to Interior Minister Eli Shussman for final approval.

Opposition figures and Palestinian leaders wanted approval of the plan could provoke violence.

"Implementation of this decision would mean the destruction of the peace process and the creation of a popular reaction that would make the tunnel incidents a simple matter," said Faisal Husseini, the leading PLO official in Jerusalem. "We are trying to deal with this issue in political and peaceful means through the peace process."

Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush, when asked if the housing plan was wise, said he is not worried.

"I don't see any reason why Jews can't live in the Old City or in the east of the city. There is no reason not to... It can lead to coexistence," he told Israel Radio.

The radio said the plan called for 132 homes for Jews in Ras al-Amud. Shussman had linked approval of more housing for Arabs in the neighborhood to approval of the plan for Jewish housing, the radio said.

Lawyer Daniel Siedemann, who opposed the plan yesterday at the hearing on behalf of Jewish and Palestinian, told Reuters the plan did "not respect the delicate mosaic of the city."

"The linkage between the Jewish and Arab building is scandalous and illegal... they [Arabs] are being held hostage," he added.

Siedemann said the commission could take "a day or a month" before deciding whether to send the plan for Shussman's signature.

Labor MK Uzi Baran said the plan, which he blocked when he was interior minister in the previous government, is a prescription for trouble.

"I'm completely against it," he told Israel Radio. "The existing hostility in my opinion will also cause a very complicated international problem for the Netanyahu government and it will also cause serious conflicts between the Jews and Arabs in that neighborhood."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Second frogman buried

Naval commando Third Petty Officer Matan Polibuda, 19, who was killed on a training dive with his partner, SPO Yair Engel, 20, in Haifa Port last Wednesday night, was buried yesterday at Jerusalem's Mt. Herzl Military Cemetery. Polibuda was eulogized by his father, Ilan, who praised the naval commandos and said the family blames no one for the accident. The father also said that Matan's brother, Itai, is touring the outback of Australia and could not be notified of his brother's death.

Rajoub meets with missing soldier's family

Col. Jibril Rajoub, head of the Palestinian Authority's Preventive Security Service in Jericho, told relatives of Sharon Edri, a soldier who disappeared in September, that PA Chairman Yasser Arafat consistently has directed him to cooperate with Israel in finding Edri. Rajoub told Edri's relatives, who traveled in Jericho yesterday afternoon to meet with him, that he had no new information on Edri's whereabouts and no information he was being held by any Palestinian group. Knesset Interior Committee chairman Sallah Tarif (Labor), who initiated the visit, also participated in the meeting.

Levinger's daughter seriously burned

Nurit Levinger, Rabbi Moshe Levinger's 20-year-old daughter, was in serious condition at Hadassah University Hospital in Ein Kerem last night after being burnt in a fire caused by a kerosene heater. The hospital said she was conscious, despite burns covering about 60 percent of her body.

Hamas to mark death of 'The Engineer'

Hamas has received permission from Palestinian Police to hold a rally, on Friday in Khan Yunis, located in the Gaza Strip, to commemorate the group's founding and the killing of master bombmaker Ythya Ayyash, "The Engineer." Ayyash was killed in January in Gaza when he answered a call on his cellular phone and it exploded in his hands. Israel is widely believed to have been behind the killing.

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Foreign Minister David Levy (left) and his Cypriot counterpart, Alec Michaelides, emerge from a luncheon meeting yesterday at Jerusalem's Sheraton Plaza Hotel. Michaelides expressed concern at Israel's just-concluded deal to upgrade Turkish Phantom fighter-bombers.

Sarid: Egypt wary of Netanyahu gov't

MERETZ leader Yossi Sarid, who was the guest of Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa in Cairo yesterday, said after their meeting that he found "a considerable amount of scepticism in Egypt regarding the true intentions of Benjamin Netanyahu's government, both on the Palestinian and the Syrian tracks."

Sarid said Egypt believes "there is no chance in resuming the negotiations with Syria without adopting the 'peace for territories' formula and willingness to fully implement this even on the Golan Heights."

Gen. (res.) Ahmed Fater, the

LIAT COLLINS

head of the Middle Eastern Studies Institute in Cairo, and Dr. Osama el-Harb, the head of the research institute of *El-Ahram* newspaper, told him of "worrying changes among Egyptian military personnel." Sarid said. He said they told him that Israel had been marked on maps once as an "enemy"; after that as "an opponent"; later as "a neighboring state"; and now as "an unpredictable state."

They expressed concern at this change and called for greater cooperation between Egypt,

Jordan, Israel and the Palestinians.

In his conversation with Moussa, Sarid raised the issue of Israeli citizen Azzam Azzam, who is being held in an Egyptian prison on espionage charges. Sarid said he made it quite clear that Azzam had no connection at all with the Mossad "and one hopes the [Egyptian] error will be quickly seen and rectified."

Sarid spoke in private with Moussa for about an hour and was then the guest of honor at a lunch with leading ministry officials, parliamentarians, researchers and journalists.

Ran Cohen questions legality of dual citizenship for PM's advisers

LIAT COLLINS

MERETZ MK Ran Cohen is asking the head of the Civil Service to investigate whether it is legal and acceptable for an adviser in the Prime Minister's Office to hold dual nationality. Cohen was relating to a newspaper article on David Bar-Ilan, the head of the political planning and information branch in the Prime Minister's Office.

Cohen, who chairs the Knesset State Control Committee, sent a letter to Civil Service Commissioner Shmuel Hollander asking whether it is acceptable that a ministerial branch head, and particularly one in the premier's office, should also be a national of a foreign country and use his foreign passport during official visits. Cohen also asked Hollander to check whether Bar-Ilan had passed security checks and whether the nationalities of other advisers had been checked.

"Apart from the scorn it raises in a government promoting itself as patriotic and nationalist, there are questions of the legality and acceptability of such a senior civil servant holding two nationalities," Cohen said.

In response, Bar-Ilan, who is Israeli-born, noted that according to US law an American citizen must use a US passport to enter and leave that country and that he travels with both his Israeli and US passports. He said he had passed all the security tests, including a lie-detector test. Bar-Ilan said the question of the legality of having dual nationality had not been raised before, but he would abide by Hollander's ruling and would be prepared to give up his US citizenship if necessary.

The same questions apply to Dore Gold, the prime minister's diplomatic adviser, who also holds both US and Israeli citizenship.

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Over 100,000 protest in new anti-Milosevic demonstration

MORE than 100,000 demonstrators, accusing Serbia's Supreme Court of rubber-stamping socialist election fraud, thronged Belgrade yesterday amid growing demands for an end to President Slobodan Milosevic's autocratic rule.

The court has begun rejecting appeals by the Zajedno (Together) coalition of opposition parties that vote rigging by the socialists cheated it of victory in Belgrade during local elections on November 17.

Anger at the rulings mobilized more than 100,000 protesters in the capital and 40,000 in the southern town of Nis, where Zajedno also claimed it had won in the biggest reversal for socialist rule in Serbia for 50 years.

Referral of the issue to the court after three weeks of street protests buoyed opposition hopes that Milosevic might admit defeat under strong pressure from the US and other Western governments.

Although there was no official announcement, copies of the court's legally binding decision in five out of 50 appeals were sent to Zajedno and the Belgrade election commission.

Zajedno leader Vuk Draskovic said the rulings were sufficient to deprive the opposition of a major

DONALD FORBES
Belgrade

ity in Belgrade and restore socialist control.

"It is now clear to both the foreign and domestic public that what the Supreme Court did last night was founded on politics, not law," Zajedno lawyer Goran Draganic said.

Draskovic told reporters that peaceful protests would continue until Milosevic resigned, but he feared the authorities might quickly resort to force.

"I am expecting tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, that Milosevic will use police, maybe even the army, but we will not stop," he added.

The authorities have held the police in reserve during daily street protests attracting up to 150,000 people.

Zajedno leaders have expressed concern that police provocateurs among the marchers could foment trouble and give Milosevic an excuse to turn loose his riot police.

He used tanks to crush the last significant street challenge to his authority in 1991.

Zajedno and Belgrade students staged separate marches, during

which a wreath was laid at the door of Milosevic's office with the inscription: "Justice died here."

Draskovic compared Milosevic and his marxist wife Mirjana with Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife, who were overthrown and executed in 1989.

He told baying demonstrators: "We are not even the victims of a one-party dictatorship, but of a one-bed dictatorship. We are in the same position Romania under the Ceausescus. There's only one objective now - resignation."

Mirjana, who leads her own United Yugoslav Left (YUL) party is even more unpopular than her husband with opposition supporters.

Aleksa Djilas, political analyst son of the late communist dissident Milovan Djilas, accused the opposition of being over-ambitious in trying to topple Milosevic and warned against relying on the West.

"I do not believe the West would support Milosevic's replacement because a successor is not in sight," Djilas told Beta news agency. "[The West] fears the nationalism of the opposition leaders and the anarchic situation in Serbia." (Reuters)



Student protesters blow whistles during a march in support of the opposition through the streets of Belgrade yesterday. The opposition said it would end the demonstrations if President Slobodan Milosevic agreed to ratify results from last month's local elections. (AP)

Officials: Zairean rebels cut key road

BENI, Zaire (Reuters) - Zairean rebels and their allies have taken two strategic towns, cutting government troops in the northeastern town of Bunia off from Kisangani city to the west, local officials said yesterday.

The crossroads towns of Komanda and Mambasa are both on the main road from Bunia to Kisangani, the largest city in the region.

"We tried to reach Bunia yesterday," said Kihungu Lubono Tsongo, magistrate in rebel-held Beni. "But [we] were turned back at Komanda ... by Banyamulenge [rebel] forces."

Mustafa Lufungula, head of the Zairean Red Cross in Beni, said in an interview published yesterday that the United Nations was inflating the number of refugees still in rebel-held areas as an excuse to bring in foreign forces.

In Beni, Tsongo said Bunia had a concentration of government troops, some pushed north by the advancing rebels and some flown in as reinforcements. This would make a garrison of about 5,000 men, the rebels said. Tsongo said the Zairean soldiers had left a trail of destruction as they fled northwards.

On the other side of Rwanda, in northwestern Tanzania, about 1,000 Rwandan refugees walked out of two camps yesterday, complicating UN plans to repatriate them.

mission to find and help the refugees has set up its headquarters in the Ugandan capital Kampala.

The Canadian commander of the force, Lieut.-Gen. Maurice Baril, visited the rebel capital Goma yesterday to seek more information on how to help refugees.

As the mission looked increasingly tenuous, a force spokesman said Baril had crossed from Rwanda to Zaire to meet rebel leader Laurent Kabila, who opposes the force deploying for fear it might restore the authority of Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko.

Kabila's military commander, Andre Kissasse Ngandu, said in an interview published yesterday that the United Nations was inflating the number of refugees still in rebel-held areas as an excuse to bring in foreign forces.

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Report: Nixon wanted Jewish contributors to Democrats investigated

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - President Richard Nixon wanted the US tax agency to audit Jewish contributors to the Democratic Party, whom he said were "stealing in every direction," the *San Francisco Examiner* reported yesterday.

Nixon, in recently released White House tapes, urged Chief of Staff H.R. Haldeman to "please get me the names of the Jews. You know, the big Jewish contributors to the Democrats. Could we please investigate some of the (expletive)?"

The conversations were included in more than 200 hours of tapes released after the Nixon family gave up a two-decade battle to keep them private.

At a meeting with domestic adviser John D. Ehrlichman in

September 1971, Nixon encouraged investigations into Jewish contributors to 1968 Democratic presidential candidate Hubert Humphrey and former Maine Sen. Edmund Muskie, the front-runner for the Democratic nomination, the *Examiner* said.

"John, we have the power," Nixon said. "Are we using it oow to investigate contributors to Hubert Humphrey? Contributors to Muskie? The Jews, you know, that are stealing in every direction?"

Five days later, in a conversation with Haldeman, Nixon said: "What about the rich Jews? The IRS is full of Jews, Bob."

When Haldeman proposed scouting the Internal Revenue Service for "a zealot who dislikes those people" to audit Jewish con-

tributors, Nixon agreed: "Go after them like a son of a bitch."

Robert Strauss, treasurer of the Democratic National Committee in 1971, called Nixon's comments "sickening."

"As a Jewish, politically involved Democrat, this language coming out of the mouth of a president of the United States is more than I can really comprehend," Strauss told the newspaper.

Ehrlichman said he did not recall the conversations, the *Examiner* said. Haldeman died in 1993.

There is no evidence that any audits were carried out, and no contributors were mentioned by name, the *Examiner* said.

Other examples of Nixon's anti-Semitism have surfaced in recent years.

Swiss look to Jewish community to join Holocaust loot search

THE Swiss government is widening its contacts in the international Jewish community, by inviting numerous Jewish organizations to participate in its "search for truth and justice," according to the Swiss Foreign Ministry.

In the end, dozens of Jewish organizations may want to sit at the table.

Thomas Borer, who heads Switzerland's task force on the history of Swiss Holocaust-era financial dealings, is scheduled to hold a series of meetings later this week with Jewish organizations in the US, including representatives of the Joint Distribution Committee and the Anti-Defamation League, Swiss diplomatic sources said. He also is seeking meetings with B'nai B'rith and the American Jewish Committee.

Borer, a Foreign Ministry lawyer, extended a similar invitation to Avraham Burg, head of the Jewish Agency, according to the Foreign

MARILYN HENRY
New York

Ministry. In letters sent in the last 10 days to Jewish organizations, Borer asked for the meetings "to discuss your views and suggestions as we continue our search for truth and justice."

The Swiss move appeared to be an effort to navigate the extensively organized Jewish world and to identify all the relevant Jewish actors in a community where no single organization has the authority to speak for everyone.

"What's wrong with dealing with 27 different Jewish organizations?" said Rabbi Marvin Hier of the Simoo Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles.

The World Jewish Congress has been the

leader in the effort to recover dormant Jewish assets in Swiss banks. It is now participating with the Swiss Bankers Association on a panel, led by former Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker, to arrange for an audit of the bank accounts.

The Clinton administration was also said to be seeking meetings with a number of Jewish organizations. The administration is in the early stages of an inquiry into how the US dealt with the recovery and distribution of Nazi loot.

Switzerland's wartime financial dealings will be reviewed Wednesday at the third congressional hearing on this issue, this one called by the House Banking Committee. Among those scheduled to testify are Volcker, Borer, Edgar Bronfman of the World Jewish Congress, and a representative of the Swiss bankers.

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Algerian rebel group names former Bosnian fighter as new leader

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) - A 28-year-old Muslim extremist who fought in Afghanistan and Bosnia has been chosen to lead the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), Algeria's most violent rebel faction, the group said yesterday.

Slimane Maherzi, also known as Abu Djamal, has replaced Antar Zouabri to lead the group's fight to install a fundamentalist Islamic government in Algeria.

It was not immediately clear why Zouabri was replaced, but he may have been killed by Algerian security forces, who have stepped up their operations against the militants in the past 15 days. More than 60,000 people have been killed in the 4 1/2-year-long insurgency.

Zouabri was considered responsible for the killings of dozens of Algerians who were not strictly observing Islamic law. He in turn had replaced Djamel Zitouni.

German court delays ruling on Nazi slave workers

BONN (Reuters) - A German court last week delayed a decision until the end of January that could pave the way for hundreds of prisoners in Hitler's slave labor camps to be awarded compensation.

The civil court could not reach a decision on whether 22 former slave workers should receive compensation and, if so, how much they would be entitled to receive.

"The decision will be made on January 31," said Klaus-Andreas Nagel, a lawyer for the claimants, after the court proceedings ended. "We hope the decision will go our way."

Nagel said one of the reasons the decision was delayed was that the lawyers for the claimants had recently increased the amount of compensation they were looking for.

The Constitutional Court ruled in July that foreign citizens' claims for their unpaid work could not be rejected out of hand as violating international law. But it said they might be turned down if already covered by specific bilateral agreements with their countries of origin.

It said German citizens could be entitled to make claims as well.

The case concerns 21 women and one man, all of them Jewish. Before World War II, they were of German, Hungarian and Polish nationality, but now all except three have taken Israeli citizenship. Two are US citizens and one is Canadian.

If the claimants win their case, it could pave the way for landmark awards for hundreds of other former slave laborers.

The Nazis forced hundreds of thousands of Jews, mainly from Eastern Europe, prisoners of war and other deportees to work under appalling conditions for German companies.

But since the end of the war, the German government has rejected individual claims from the survivors who helped to boost profits for German industry during the Third Reich.

It said these were covered in post-war bilateral agreements and that they could only be addressed once Germany concluded peace treaties with former foes and countries it occupied - something Germany had never done formally. Others were deemed invalid as they were lodged "too late."

Some firms that profited from slave labor were closed down after the war. Some, for example Volkswagen AG, are still in place while others have legal successors.

The most notorious company was the chemical giant IG Farben, which made "Zyklon B" for the gas chambers of Auschwitz and other concentration camps.

IG Farben was the world's fourth-largest company until the end of the war. The allies broke it down into three firms - Bayer AG, BASF AG and Hoechst AG.

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A dragon that knows its place

FILM REVIEW
ADINA HOFFMAN

DRAGONHEART

Directed by Rob Cohen. Screenplay by Charles Edward Pogue. Hebrew title: *Lev hadrakon*. 108 minutes. English dialogue. Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance suggested for small children.

With Dennis Quaid, David Thewlis, Pete Postlethwaite, Dina Meyer, Julie Christie and the voice of Sean Connery

KIDS of most temperaments are bound to enjoy the larger-than-life fancy of *Dragonheart*. Set in a fairytale 10th century of brave swordsmen, wicked kings, strong peasant girls and the last of the fire-breathing dragons, the film combines a powerful narrative with sophisticated special effects in a way that should appeal both to children who love reading books and to all the videogame aficionados in the audience.

In sunnier tones than are usual for such yarns about the Dark Ages, the movie tells the story of the unlikely friendship between a knight named Bowen (Dennis Quaid) and an enormous, flying lizard, Draco (the voice of Sean Connery), the sole remaining member of his species. Although Bowen has made a name for himself as a dragonslayer — a sword-for-hire who travels the countryside offering to protect villages from attack by the slithering beasts — he realizes he'll be out of a job once this last dragon is gone. So he agrees to join forces with the amiable monster, and the two set forth to bilk the terrified citizens of the realm. In a neatly choreo-



Bowen (Dennis Quaid) is a knight who befriends the last remaining dragon.

graphed scam, Bowen relieves the peasants of a sack of gold then pretends to kill the dragon, who does his bit and plays dead for a while. Then the buddies move onto the next cluster of thatched-roofed huts and start all over again. While their exploits are amusing, it's clear from the outset that Bowen's behavior is not quite in line with the chivalric code to which he long ago swore allegiance. As the film goes on, both he and the orange-eyed creature are called upon to demonstrate their honor, valor and selflessness: the tyrannical King Einon (David Thewlis) must be overthrown, and the oppressed serfs in burlap liberated (Dina Meyer plays the pretty

tomboy leader of the peasant revolt). And toppling the king is no simple matter of storming the castle and beheading the sadistic jerk. As a young man, Einon's life was saved by a beneficent dragon, who gave the dying heir to the throne half his heart and inextricably linked his own reptilian fate to that of the despotic monarch. It's an unusual children's picture whose plot and characters are actually too complex to collapse into a neat little tic-tac-toe board. *Dragonheart* is such a film, a fact that's still more impressive when we stop to consider the boggling technological challenges involved in bringing the legend to life. Director Rob Cohen and screen-

writer Charles Edward Pogue could easily have handed the creative reins over to the swarm of special effects types who worked on the movie — but they resisted, and the results are admirable. Not only does the digitally constructed monster look like a real live dragon, he knows his place in the story. And what, you ask, does a "real live" dragon look like? Like a huge, toothy wind-up toy, of course, with a hatchet for a tail, a pair of gigantic kites for wings and napalm on his breath. One of the elements that distinguishes *Dragonheart* from *Jurassic Park*, the makers of *Dragonheart* are able to let their imaginations fly high and free — the most special of special effects.

of make-believe involved in Cohen's movie. (George Lucas's Industrial Light and Magic was responsible for the visual wizardry in both films.) While the dinosaurs in the Spielberg extravaganza were drawn diligently and well from the anatomical structures of an actual extinct species, no skeletons have yet been unearthed to prove the existence of talking dragons. So instead of the impressive but peculiarly literal (and, in some ways, numbing) accuracy that weighed down a spectacle like *Jurassic Park*, the makers of *Dragonheart* are able to let their imaginations fly high and free — the most special of special effects.

Reality or illusion

HELEN KAYE

DOV Reiser plays the title role in Pirandello's fascinating *Henry IV*, considered by many to be his best play. It's a difficult, complex role, he says, "the story of a man who pretends to be mad and forces everybody to play along," until he reaches the point of no return, "and then the Henry character is trapped in the construct he's made."

This *Henry IV* is the German kinglet who had to go to Canossa and beg pardon from Pope Gregory VII before the pope would lift the ban of excommunication against the king and his people in 1077. Pirandello's play veers between this century and the supposed Middle Ages.

For 20 years, Henry, an Italian aristocrat, has imagined himself to be the king, following a kick in the head from his horse, and for 20 years his family and friends have tried to cure a man who admits (to the audience) that he's as sane as you or I.

"The play is about the choice between living in reality or illusion," says *Henry IV* director Mitko Bozkov, "but Pirandello says that there really is no choice. We have to live in reality because the alternative is destruction."

Pirandello (1867-1936), an Italian, won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1934.

Most of his dramas pose questions about the nature of reality and truth, probably epitomized in *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, arguably his most popular play.

Pirandello isn't exactly pop theater, so applause to the Sifria Theater in Ramat Gan for mounting the kind of production that our repertory theaters should be doing more of.

The play also stars Rosina Kambois as Henry's nemesis, the Baron Belcredi. The play opens Friday.



Two characters who have found an author: Rosina Kambois and Dov Reiser star in Pirandello's 'Henry IV.'

The Jewish-American 'Flower of God' returns

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

AFTER an absence of seven years, Murray Perahia — Perah-ya means the "flower of God" — is back. The American Sephardi pianist who now lives in London is to play works by Mozart and Schumann with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra (under Michael Stern) in a regular subscription series.

And next week he will play Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto, under Zubin Mehta, as part of the IPO's 60th anniversary celebrations.

He attributes his absence from our concert stages to "an infection in my finger which was analyzed wrong. There was one year in

which I did not play at all."

An exclusive recording artist with Sony (formerly CBS) for 25 years, with more than 30 discs to his credit, Perahia's recordings have always been very popular. The newest one is of sonatas by Scarlatti and Handel, and a new recording of the Schumann concerto is due next year.

He is also about to perform and record Bach for the first time, starting with the English Suites.

Perahia enjoys playing in the recording studio. "Of course immediacy is lacking but you can have enough time to work on each piece."

On the other hand, if you record

live in a concert and you play wrong notes it's not so pleasant to hear them more than once."

Born to an Orthodox Jewish family — his father came to New York from Saloniki — he had a very clear Jewish upbringing, which he is now passing on to his own two children, aged nine and 13. His wife Naomi is of Jewish Iraqi descent.

As a child Perahia spoke Ladino at home, and he appreciates the fact that "my parents let me do what I wanted musically. I am the only musician in the family."

"I believe my father wanted to

be a musician but back in Greece his father thought it was unacceptable. My father went every Saturday to the Metropolitan Opera in New York. I know he wanted to take my mother but she was bored stiff so he took me instead."

These days, he says, "Fewer people and no young people come to concerts. Our culture values instant gratification... I can't even get my two children to listen to classical music."

After 25 years of a hectic career, Perahia, who will be 50 in April, believes his overall playing has

changed through the years. Speaking about Mozart piano concerti, for which he became famous very early in his career, he says that "I think I see the unity more now, instead of many beautiful details."

The Mozart piano concerto (K.491) he plays this week (tomorrow, Thursday and Saturday) with the IPO is "one of the two Mozart wrote in the minor key — which was very dramatic for him."

Perahia does not yet know when he will be back in Israel, but he promises to return.

Opera — minus the voices

CLASSIC DISCS
MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Sabine Meyer. A Night at the Opera. (Mozart, Rossini, Weber, Verdi) Orchester der Oper Zurich. Franz Welser-Moest. EMI Classics (7243 5 56137 21).

IN recent years, a number of opera albums have appeared with no singing. This is a throwback to the 19th century, when composers arranged operatic arias and ensembles for various instruments, particularly the piano. Liszt's piano arrangements for the operas of Wagner and Verdi are masterpieces of their kind.

The newest opera disc of this kind comes from clarinet virtuoso Sabine Meyer, and it is one of the most engaging opera discs I have heard in a long time. Meyer beguiles her listeners from the very opening number — a 12-minute arrangement of themes from *Rigoletto*. It takes time to get used to the lack of words and to the overwhelming presence of the clarinet, but Meyer plays with lush warmth and amazing virtuosity. Other numbers follow with the same dexterity and poise. There

is Tamino's aria from *Die Zauberflöte*, an aria from *Der Freischütz*, a Danzi arrangement of Mozart's "La Ci Darem la Mano" from *Don Giovanni*, and a great arrangement of Figaro's aria from *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. Of course, opera will always be a verbal art form.

But this captivating disc suggests that the power and magic of the great opera arias and duets lies far beyond its immediate dramatic context.

Copland: Piano quartet, Sonata for violin and piano, Rodeo (solo piano version). Duo for flute and piano. Soloists of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra — Glenn Dicterow, Charles Rex, Rebecca Young, Alon Stepansky, Jeanne Baxtresser; Israel Margalit (piano). Anglo-American Chamber Music Series. EMI Classics (7243 5 55405 22).

EMI's Anglo-American Chamber Music Series, conceived and

artistically directed by Israel Margalit, is a real winner. Margalit managed to engage some of her musical friends to perform neglected chamber-music masterpieces, and the result is most engaging and revealing alike.

The Copland disc, on which Margalit shines throughout, is the real winner. Margalit's rendition of the piano version of the *Rodeo* ballet suite is simply stunning.

The orchestral colors to help her, Margalit manages to draw in front of us an American portrait of a society which loves the notion of life.

It is a powerful performance which is coupled by some other little-known Copland works, like the engaging and powerful Sonata for Violin and Piano, and the beguiling, gripping and brilliantly written Piano Quartet.

Copland (1900-1990) was one of America's greatest composers, a musician writing very much in the European tradition yet building from it a very specific American musical language.

CALLING ALL YOU HANDICRAFTERS

The Jerusalem Post Pessah Handicrafts Fair will take place on **Wednesday, April 25, 1997**, at the Ra'anana Sports Center, next to Metro West High School. If you create top quality handicrafts and wish to book a stand at the fair, please contact Beverlee Black, Director of The Jerusalem Post Funds, Tel. 02-623-3986.

All proceeds from the fair will help Israel's needy children, the elderly and new immigrants.

NEWS OF THE MUSE

Our kind of folk

Druse, Beduin, Yemenite, and Caucasian folk dancers will be among the 10 groups competing for NIS 15,000 in prizes from the Schuster Foundation, at the Ethnic Celebration on Wednesday at the Holon Arts Center in Kiryat Sharet. Also competing are Kurdish singer Ilana Ilya, Russian singer Boris Sihon, and folk-dance groups from Karmiel, Haifa and Tel Aviv. The event is organized to present our country's ethnic diversity in music, dance and song by Mataf, an organization dedicated to this aim. The Han Tang Yuefu song ensemble from Taiwan will also appear. Helen Kaye

Bat Dor premieres

The Bat Dor Dance Company is premiering three new short works on December 30. They are Nils Christie's *Sync*, *Song of Songs* by Philippe Tréhet — whose company was seen at the International Dance Competition in October, and *Ring* (a provisional title), by Bat Dor's own Anya Brud. Helen Kaye

Musicians protest

The Israel Symphony Orchestra Rishon Lezion played a special concert at the Knesset, at the beginning of last week, protesting management threats to fire musicians if the government does not provide the orchestra with the money it promised it for the current fiscal year. Orchestra management expressed hope that the funds will arrive, but stressed that if not, there will be no way to avoid the dismissals. Michael Ajzenstadt

Seeds of 'Sesame Street'

Educational Television is all set to roll on 60 new episodes of the evergreen pre-school series, *Sesame Street* or *Rehur: Sunsum* in Hebrew. This cycle will concentrate on tolerance and mutual respect between people. Actor Ami Weinberg will portray the new Kippi, a hedgehog substitute for the American Big Bird. The cast includes both Israelis and Arabs and features newcomers to the series such as singer Amal Morkos, and actress Meski Shibray. The all-new *Sesame Street* will start screening in 1998. Helen Kaye

Spielberg adds to his list

Steven Spielberg is a father again. It is the Hollywood director's fifth child with Kate Capshaw, and in keeping with local custom, the names get more and more ridiculous as they go along. The couple's new little girl is called Destry Allyn. Spielberg, who married Capshaw in 1991, also has a son (Max, 11) from his first wife, Amy Irving.

Spielberg got to know Capshaw when she starred in his adventure movie *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*. At present, the Cincinnati-born director is building up his DreamWorks multimedia entertainment studio, which he founded two years ago with record magnate David Geffen and movie czar Jeffrey Katzenberg. Tom Cross

America's favorite movie star

Mel Gibson has been voted "America's Favorite Movie Star" of 1996, knocking John Wayne off his long-standing No. 1 position, according to a telephone poll among 1,000 adults conducted last month by the Harris polling agency. Since his death in 1979, Wayne has been at or near the top of the annual Harris survey. Gibson, who was born in Peekskill, New York, but grew up in Australia, won two Oscars last year for *Braveheart*. His latest film, *Ransom*, in which he plays a millionaire who takes matters into his own hands when his son is kidnapped, has taken over \$100 million at the US box office.



Mel Gibson knocked John Wayne off no. 1.

Muscleman Steven Seagal was in third position, followed by Clint Eastwood, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Tom Cruise, Tom Hanks, Denzel Washington, Kevin Costner, Sylvester Stallone and Paul Newman. The highest-ranked actress, Demi Moore, came in at only No. 14 spot. Tom Cross

Discovery Channel, BBC team up in major venture

THE Discovery Channel announced last week that it had teamed up with the BBC in a \$500 million venture to make programs and launch new channels.

It said in a statement that Discovery Communications Inc., the parent of cable television's Discovery Channel, and BBC Worldwide Ltd., the state-owned BBC's commercial arm, would launch new channels in the US and elsewhere, creating hundreds of hours of new programs.

It said Discovery would finance the venture, which would have access to the BBC's vast program library.

The statement quoted Discovery founder John S. Hendricks, who part-owns the company, as saying: "I can't think of a better partner for what I'm sure will be a very exciting journey."

The statement did not say what kind of programs the venture would make, but both Discovery Channel and the BBC are strong in wildlife and environmental programs.

Discovery Communications is owned by Liberty Media Corp, a division of Tele-Communications Inc. Cox Communications, Advance Newhouse Communications and Hendricks. (Reuters)

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December 12, 1996 at 8:30 p.m.

A new play by Israel's leading playwright, Hanoch Levin, Hefetz, a relative and tenant in Tagalich and Chlamanse's apartment, threatens to commit suicide when he is excluded from his relatives' wedding plans. Will he jump...?

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by: Elie Wiesel
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The Cameri Theatre proudly presents the Neues Theater from Halle, Germany, with their production of Elie Wiesel's drama, set in the 17th century. The play will be performed in German, with a simultaneous translation into Hebrew.

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January 11, 1997 at 4:30 and 9:00 p.m.
January 12, 1997 at 4:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

The Cameri Theatre proudly presents the British Theater company, Shoreditch Experience, with their production of the Shakespeare classic, *The Tempest*. The play will be performed in English, with a simultaneous translation into Hebrew.

"Theatre doesn't come much more exciting than this." — Daily Telegraph

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Ending the pain

THERE are more doctors in Israel per person than in any other nation in the world. Israeli medical care is world class and constantly improving. Yet in at least one area, the treatment of pain, many Israeli doctors remain in the dark ages - not for lack of equipment or funds, but out of inexcusable ignorance.

Pain is one of the most common manifestations of cancer and one of the most feared consequences of the disease. A third to a half of patients with early stage cancer, and 70 to 90 percent of patients with advanced cancer suffer pain. An indication of the suffering of these patients is that extreme pain has been found to be the most important factor leading cancer patients to request euthanasia or assisted suicide.

A survey of Israeli doctors released at last week's annual meeting of the Israeli Pain Society found that almost three-fifths believe that pain could be controlled in more than 75 percent of patients. In their own experience, however, only 17% felt that such a degree of success is actually being achieved.

There is evidently a substantial gap between the amount of pain that doctors know can be relieved, and the actual application of pain relief. The doctors surveyed also pointed to the reasons for this gap: failure to assess pain, ignorance of pain treatment methods, reluctance to prescribe certain drugs, and finally, patient reluctance to use certain drugs.

The good news is that pain can be relieved, and that many doctors recognize that pain is being under-treated. Each of the reasons for under-treatment can be addressed. But pain will not be properly treated unless doctors and nurses are trained to identify it. Patients must be asked whether they are in pain, and patients' complaints of pain should not be dismissed. Pain is a subjective experience, so there is no clear cut way of objectively measuring pain.

Despite this, pain can be assessed, tracked, and treated like other patient symptoms. The Canadian Medical Association has recommended that pain be recognized as a fifth vital sign, along with temperature, blood pressure, respiration, and heart rate. In light of this, Canadian hospitals will be required to chart pain as they chart other vital signs in order to receive accreditation.

Doctors, understandably, tend to focus on symptoms that are easily measured. The charting of pain would instantly increase the awareness of both doctors and patients that pain is a measurable symptom that patients have a right to have monitored and treated. And once pain is registered, doctors would have grounds to take action - if they knew what to do. Despite the high quality of Israeli medical schools, 89 percent of the Israeli doctors polled in the just-released survey rated their own medical school training in the management of pain as poor or very poor. There are no formal courses on palliative medicine in any of Israel's four medical schools. Palliative care is not a required subject for doctors, even for oncologists. Just this year, post-graduate courses in pain management have been offered, but it is still not possible for local doctors or nurses to specialize in the field.

Clearly, education regarding established pain-control methods should become standard in Israeli medical schools. Hospitals should also issue guidelines that will prompt doctors to remedy deficiencies in their own training for the reduction of pain. It is not acceptable for patients to suffer from treatable pain simply because of their doctor's ignorance.

The effective treatment of pain is also bobbled by myths that are prevalent both among doctors and the public at large. Morphine and other opioid drugs have been stigmatized as addictive. In fact, every major study of the matter has found that the risk of addiction to morphine is very low, probably as low as one in 10,000. Every medical panel that has examined the issue has concluded that it makes no sense for patients to suffer debilitating pain to avoid a minuscule risk of addiction.

In recognition of this consensus, a Ministry of Health committee has approved the removal or modification of numerous limits on the prescription of morphine-like drugs for the reduction of pain. The new regulations, now awaiting legal approval, would remove significant impediments to pain reduction and should be implemented as soon as possible.

Many doctors and patients, who are unfamiliar with the current consensus on pain management, believe that patients will usually develop a tolerance to strong pain killers that render them ineffective. This, too, has been clinically demonstrated to be a myth.

It is also a misconception that strong pain killers will destroy the patient's ability to function normally. Studies indicate that, with today's pain-management techniques, most pain can be relieved with minimal or no side effects.

While the education of doctors will go a long way in educating the public on treating pain, the public can also lead the way. Some people think it is wrong to complain about pain, or believe that drugs are worse than the pain. If people were more aware that pain can and should be treated, they would demand such treatment from the health-care system and speed the educational process.

A recent editorial in the journal Cancer stated, "That there is so much suffering that could be controlled [and] that is not is, at best, unfortunate and at worst, an indictment of professional standards." Israel is moving in the right direction to alter these standards, but not quickly enough. It is a slow process, as the professional responsibility for remedying the situation lies with the Ministry of Health, the medical schools, hospital administrators, and health clinics.

But beneath this clinical view lies the common denominator that unites all who suffer pain. As Hippocrates, author of the physician's credo known as the Hippocratic Oath, said, "Divine is the effort to subdue pain." Our moral imperative is to strive urgently to subdue this most basic and debilitating form of suffering.

What do they do?

DAVID NEWMAN

TODAY the Israel Geographical Association holds its annual conference, in Tel Aviv. "Ugh!" I can hear people saying, "What a bore!" as they remember high school, where they were forced to learn the names of rivers and capital cities ad nauseam, or perhaps the differences between types of climates or landforms.

How often I am greeted with the question, "So you're a professor of geography? Then can you tell me the name of the capital city of Nepal, or the river that flows through Mongolia?"

Expected to be the world's best travel agent I encounter blank stares when - as often happens - I am as ignorant of the answers as the average person. There can be few disciplines in the modern world where as great a chasm exists between practice and external perceptions.

Geography is an exciting profession, but few non-geographers have much idea what it is geographers actually do.

And geographers themselves have become so self-conscious that many spend much of their professional life justifying themselves to the outside world or, as is often the case, finding an alternative label for their work.

Let's take a look at the program of today's conference, which, by the way, approximately 300 geographers, planners, geomorphologists, environmentalists and policy makers are expected to attend.

There are sessions on topics covering the whole range of physical and human landscape formation. Geographers don't just study the way our spaces and territories were formed in the past; they are also actively involved in planning how these places and spaces should (and maybe will) be planned in the future.

In Israel geographers sit on numerous governmental committees which determine how our land is to be zoned, where settlements should be located, how our environment is to be preserved, to which areas scarce resources should be allocated - even how the future maps of Israel and the Palestinian Authority should be drawn up and demarcated.

Geography graduates are fortunate; they have a wide range of practical job opportunities, and can be found working in many government ministries and planning agencies.

BUT, some still ask, what do geographers actually deal with? Well, the wide-ranging, somewhat eclectic, list of topics suggests that the answer could be: just about anything they can lay their hands on.

Geography is, by definition, a diverse profession. It is a form of national unity government, one which comprises all shades and colors of human activity, seeking to draw them together under a territorial umbrella.

If geographers are critical of other disciplines it is that many other social scientists view the world as if everything were happening on top of a needle-point. The political scientist and the sociologists don't pay enough attention to the fact that differences in society are affected by, and in turn affect, the types of places in which we live, in which we function on a daily basis.

Spatial differentiation is central

Dry Bones



to our understanding of society's functioning. It isn't just the "how" and the "when" that should interest us, but the "where" too.

And it is significant that in the social science literature of the "post-modern" era, where boundaries between disciplines are supposedly vanishing, the sociologists, economists and political scientists have suddenly discovered the importance of space and place. Their journals have become full of articles dealing with topics that have been central to geographers for decades.

If this all sounds like a pitch for geography... well, it is. It was Warren Christopher who, on a helicopter tour of the West Bank and Golan Heights, is said to have commented that he hadn't realized how important an understanding of geography was to a full acquaintance with the intricacies of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Ladies and gentlemen, I rest my case.

The writer is professor of political geography and director of the Humphrey Institute of Social Research at Ben-Gurion University.

The geographers' palette comprises the shades and colors of human activity

Nepal, or the river that flows through Mongolia? Expected to be the world's best travel agent I encounter blank stares when - as often happens - I am as ignorant of the answers as the average person. There can be few disciplines in the modern world where as great a chasm exists between practice and external perceptions.

'My way is great, yours stinks'

DAVID HORNIK

IF some diabolical genius sought to estrange secular Israelis even further from Judaism, and while he was at it, deepen social rifts and send our level of social discourse plummeting even further, he couldn't have dreamed up a more brilliant notion than a haredi demonstration in Tel Aviv against the Shabbat behavior of Tel Avivians.

The dreary scenario, so familiar in Jerusalem, repeats itself in the city by the sea as a black mass of haredim denounce the secularists while a counter-mass of Meretz and other secularists denounce the haredim. Placards, jeering, name-calling. My way of life is great, yours stinks... Nope, you've got it wrong - it's my way of life that's great, yours that stinks.

It reminds me of the kind of fit for tat I used to have with my sister when we were small. What neither side, haredim nor extreme secularists, suspects for a moment is that they resemble each other. Each has a stringent requirement for Israeli society; each wants everyone to be the way they are.

The haredim want everyone to be haredi. The extreme secularists claim to be paragons of tolerance and pluralism, yet tend to be full of contempt, even hatred, toward those who are politically or religiously different.

I don't miss America's social problems - considerably worse than Israel's - but I do miss the ly counterposed to the "medieval ghetto" of the haredim. The haredim regard their way of life as definitively perfect. For

capacity to talk about them more intelligently. In the US it's a given that one lives in the 20th century; what's in question is whether that's an unalloyed good. The liberals see change as progress and champion new trends; the conservatives think things have gone too far too fast, and that some infusion of old values and standards is needed.

Both sides write thought-provoking articles and books and are genuinely exposed to each other's ideas. Here, instead of conservatives and liberals, the debate (if you can call it that) is between "Jewish Khomeinists" and "Hebrew-speaking goyim."

About 90 percent of Israeli Jews live in modern society but can't think about it critically because they tend to see it as monolithic-

extremism on both sides I don't want to suggest the two camps are equivalent. When it comes to deifying the other side's adult autonomy, regarding one's opponents as ignorant babes at best, the haredim take the credit. It's evident from their behavior.

If they understood anything at all about secular Tel Avivians they'd know that the very last thing that could incline them toward Judaism is a black casting-thrown from Jerusalem. The secularists may disapprove of haredi religious ideology, but they grant that it is a real and powerful force. The haredim, however, refuse to grant that modern, liberal secularism is a legitimate ideology, one adhered to not out of ignorance but because people believe in it.

Beyond that, much as I object to some of the views of the left-wing secularists I have a big thing in common with them: We serve in the same army. We're willing to risk, sometimes even lose, our lives for each other's sake.

That makes me feel a bond with my political opponents on the left that I can never feel with the great majority of haredim. I'm sure I'm not alone.

The writer is a writer and translator living in Jerusalem.

What really hurts is the sheer stupidity of the religious-secular 'debate'

Weakness mostly in the mind

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

General Zionists in the course of the second Knesset became the 10 followers of Rabbi Ovadia Yosef - who dress like the Lithuanian Jews, even though these latter regard them as inferiors - is without doubt the result of another major failure of the secular education system.

Today the Ashkenazi haredim still have only four Knesset seats and the National Religious Party is down to nine. Where the great difference has taken place is in the third group -

Our local representatives of the Middle Ages make us secularists squirm - but we are stronger than we think

fested itself in Tel Aviv last week - is "the real thing." They forget that by the beginning of this century this narrow interpretation was in an advanced state of decay and degeneration. Its current renaissance isn't something that grew out of the genuine "real thing." It is an aberration which feeds on what we secular Zionists built with our wits, our sweat and our blood.

The following statistics are fascinating. In the first Knesset, formed in 1949, there were 18 religious MKs, who were elected within the framework of the United Religious Front. Of these 18 MKs four were haredi-Ashkenazi (two from Agudat Yisrael and two from Poalei Agudat Yisrael) and 12 were national-religious (four from

the so-called Sephardi Jews (Shas) - who are represented in this 14th Knesset by 10 haredi MKs. Why the five moderate, forward-looking MKs of 1949 (their two parties both joined the liberal

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu made two mistakes when posing with his wife and sons as he lit the Hanukkah candles in his office on the first night of the holiday. Undoubtedly causing sneers among his religious coalition partners, the photograph (published in all the papers) shows him lighting the candles on the wrong side. Any observant Jew knows that the first candle must be placed on the right end of the hanukkiya and not

on the left side. The second mistake is that their two-year-old son, Avner, is holding the box of matches. That's risky for any child, even the son of the premier. President Clinton fared better than the leader of the Jewish state. In the photograph of him lighting in the White House (he even played dreidel with Jewish kids on his Oval Office desk), Clinton started on the correct side of the hanukkiya.

Judy Siegel

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SCITEX

Sir, - As a shareholder, I have a question relating to the sorry saga of Scitex. How is it that no legal or class action has been taken against a board of directors and management that knowingly turned down a serious offer of \$25 per share, while being aware of the true loss position the company was in, and when further growth became downgrading?

Surely, under these conditions, it is the responsibility of the managers and directors to look after their shareholders' best interest, not only their own and that of major backers - Clal and Discount Investments.

JACQUELINE HANAUER Kfar Sava.

HOOLIGANISM

Sir, - I would like to take this opportunity to apologize for the behavior of the US Marines recently in port in Haifa.

As an American civilian currently living in Israel, I was attempting to show this beautiful and historic city to a visiting friend, when we had the misfortune to find the city overrun by hundreds of riotous Marines. Their complete disregard for the hospitable efforts of their hosts, the people and merchants of Haifa, was only outdone by these soldiers' active and conscious effort to abuse and insult these Israelis.

In a mere two hours I witnessed a handful of fights, three separate acts of blatant vandalism, and in general, the type of ignorant, childish misbehavior only to be defined as hooliganism.

ZACH ROTHENBERG Ma'ayan Zvi.

"JANE'S"

Sir, - I am writing with reference to an article published in The Jerusalem Post on August 8. Of particular interest and concern to Jane's was the sentence: "All the more reason to be surprised at the major blunder in its latest Sentinel publication, where it claims Israeli operatives are even now secretly spying in the US."

This caused concern since nowhere in the publication in question, Jane's Sentinel-Eastern Mediterranean, is there any mention of Israeli spies currently operating in the US. For your readers' information, I would like to point out that Jane's has a strict policy never to publish classified or unclassified information. All the information in Jane's publications is checked by a minimum of two independent sources.

We are confident that the information published in Jane's Sentinel was correct at time of going to press and feel that your readers should be informed accordingly.

SARAH THOMAS, Publishing Director, Jane's Information Group London.

INTERNS FOR PEACE

Sir, - I write to clarify two misunderstandings about my professional title and role that were unintentionally implied in the insightful article by Steve Rodan on November 22 about a Khan Yunis Cleanup Day, financed by the European Union as part of the training of Gaza Community Workers by Interns for Peace.

First, although I do not have a congregation, I still serve as a "rabbi in Israel" and retain the title. My inter-group relations work in Israel and abroad constitutes a rab-

OUT OF CONTEXT

Sir, - Watching the videotape of the two border policemen hitting Palestinian detainees on Mabat on November 18, I couldn't help wondering if Channel 1 had become a propaganda outlet for the PA. In showing the footage, Channel 1 not only acted irresponsibly, but most definitely against the national interest of Israel.

To be sure, the kicking and hitting of the Palestinians looks brutal from the comfort of one's living room. But it should be kept in mind that such bullying of prisoners is far from uncommon in police detention centers around the world, even in countries not facing any particular security threat.

By airing the footage, Channel 1 certainly ensured that reports of Israeli brutality would be played around the world. From past experience, it is sure that the world media showed the film without context or background - namely, that the beatings occurred amid a massive security alert for would-be suicide bombers and following a "shooting war" when Palestinians gunned down border policemen.

ED LION Jerusalem.

binmate dedicated to fulfilling the mitzva, repeated 36 times in the Torah, "Welcome the stranger in your midst, for you were once strangers in the Land of Egypt." Second, I am not a "US-based director," but an international director, who travels continuously to oversee the Interns for Peace offices and operations in Tel Aviv, Gaza, New York and Europe.

RABBI BRUCE M. COHEN, International Director, Interns for Peace Tel Aviv.

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What Has the Computer Done for Us Lately?

By LOUIS UCHITELLE

AT the end of the 19th century, railroads and electric motors were expected to transform America, making a young industrial economy far more productive than any seen before. And they did. At the end of the 20th century, computers were supposed to perform the same miracle.

They haven't. Computers do wonderful things. But in purely economic terms, their contribution has been less than a transforming force: they have failed to bring back the strong growth that characterized so many decades of the American Century. By that standard, they have been a disappointment.

"It is a pipe dream to think that computers will lead us back to a promised land," said Alan Krueger, a Princeton University economist. The issue is productivity. Those

America is all wired up — and still awaiting that big surge in productivity.

who look to computers for economic miracles, and there are many, insist that measuring their contribution only in dollars misses the less tangible improvement in quality that computers have made possible. But quality is often in the eyes of the beholders rather than in their wallets.

Through decades of invention and change, productivity has been measured as the amount of "output" in dollars, that comes from an hour of labor. A worker who makes 100 pencils in an hour, each valued at 50 cents, produces \$50 of output. And the more output from each of the nation's workers, the greater the national wealth.

Or, put more broadly, productivity is the amount of output in dollars that comes from various "inputs," not only a worker's labor, but the tools he or she uses to carry out that labor: a machine or a computer or a wrench or an air conditioner that makes work more comfortable in summer. People work faster or concentrate better, and that shows up quickly in tangible output.

By this definition, the output resulting from the computer revolution of the last 25 years has been disappointing. Computers have, of course, contributed to productivity and eco-



A technological miracle was the Ferranti Pegasus computer, designed in Britain in the 1950's for operation from the office desktop. The world still awaits an economic miracle.

nomical growth. But that contribution has failed to register in Government statistics as the kind of robust catalyst that made the 1950's and 1960's such prosperous years.

If computers have fallen short of expectations, that would help explain an apparent paradox that has puzzled economists and policy makers for two decades: how rapid technological progress and a booming stock market took place during a period of

sluggish economic performance — sluggish, that is, relative to earlier decades.

One possibility is that the statistics are wrong. A panel of economists came to this conclusion in a report to Congress last week, suggesting that growth has actually been quite robust but that this fact has been obscured by overstating the amount of output lost to inflation. This happened, the panel hinted, partly be-

cause the beneficial economic role of computers was not correctly taken into account. Some price increases that registered as inflation should really have registered as increases in output from computers.

Like Light Bulbs

But there is another explanation. Perhaps the computer is one of those inventions, like the light bulb early in

the century, that makes life much better without adding as much to tangible national wealth as appearances might suggest. That is because, while the light bulb allowed factories to operate night shifts and students to study more easily, the measurable result was less impressive than the great improvement in the quality of life that the electric light bulb made possible.

Given the computer's ubiquity and

convenience, should the calculation of productivity and wealth be changed to give more dollar value to the conveniences the computer has wrought?

That kind of recalculation has not been done over generations of technological change, largely because convenience is too hard to quantify and translate into dollars. Too often, con-

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Once off the
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prevails in the
streets of Germany.

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By Barbara Crossette

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Fighting International Crime

The Striped-Pants Crowd Gets Gumshoes

By STEVEN LEE MYERS

NEW YORK CITY'S Police Commissioner, Howard Safir, stepped into a diplomatic mess last month when he went to the Dominican Republic with a plan to station a few of the city's police officers in Santo Domingo. The very idea stirred the fury of Dominican nationalism and fears of Yankee imperialism. The nation's new President, Leonel Fernández Reyna, took to ridiculing it. And the modest plan to try to staunch the flow of drugs and fugitives between the island nation and Upper Manhattan appeared to wither in a diplomatic tempest.

The row, however, obscured an increasingly fundamental fact of American life and law enforcement:

Like almost everything else in the global village, the fight against crime is increasingly international. And that has raised new concerns not only for the United States' law enforcement officials — from the Federal Bureau of Investigation to the Central Intelligence Agency — but also for its diplomats.

No longer simply an overseas matter for the long arm of American justice, international crime is increasingly seen as a threat to national security itself, requiring the energy and resources of virtually every agency of the Government.

International crime is not new, but the end of the cold war and the subsequent opening of societies have



Vyacheslav K. Ivankov, a Russian émigré convicted last year of extortion, in custody in New York in 1995.

led to a vast increase in crimes that transcend borders. The growing freedom of travel and the explosion in technology — computers, cellular phones, beepers, faxes — have made criminals more nimble and brazen.

And the nature of their crimes has changed. They are no longer limited to drugs, terrorism and the occasional flight from justice. Increasingly there's money laundering, kidnapping, smuggling, credit card scams, even auto theft.

In addition, the United States seems far more willing to confront international crime — not quite the same attitude as in the days when a drug smuggler could be useful in operations against the Communists.

In other words, the sudden lack of a sense of mortal peril leaves America free to focus its high dudgeon on organized crime cells in Russia — cells that got their start in the black markets of the Soviet Union and have since spawned complex criminal enterprises of fraud and extortion, often reaching into the United States. Or to focus on groups in Latin America and Nigeria that once trafficked mostly in drugs and now also commit white-collar crimes involving high finance.

For the new foreign policy team announced by President Clinton last week — Madeleine K. Albright as Secretary of State, William S. Cohen as Secretary of Defense, Anthony Lake as Director of Central Intelligence and Samuel R. Berger as national security adviser — international crime is very likely to become an

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Ideas & Trends

Reading at 55 Miles Per Hour

By ADAM BRYANT

ADD this to the list of things dangerous to your health: verbose signs. That at least was the message of a jury in Dallas that recently penalized American Airlines \$20 million for its five-story-high electronic signs near the airport. It seems that one of those signs full of gate and flight information may have been the culprit in a rear-end collision at the airport in December 1993. Two passengers in the ramming car were hurt, and sued the airline, claiming their driver was distracted by the signs. The jury decided that American Airlines had brushed off warnings from traffic experts that the signs were indeed a hazard.

Everyone knows that signs can be annoying: a New York lawyer was so angry about a neon sign installed above his second-story window by the takeout chicken franchise downstairs that he hung a "BAD FOOD" sign in his window. (The case inspired a recent episode of "Seinfeld.") But can signs actually be dangerous?

Ask the New Jersey Turnpike Authority. Officials there, considering whether to put up billboards of their own and rent out the space to advertisers, researched the dangers of billboards.

The Cost of Looking

One report said some studies had indeed found a link between billboards and "distraction induced" accidents. It also cited a California study that found the average accident rates were 41 percent greater when billboards were around. (Of course, advertisers tend to prefer billboards in heavy-traffic



The face that stopped a thousand cars.

areas, which might explain the accident rate).

Other research, however, found no link whatsoever. And that was the guidance the New Jersey Turnpike Authority chose to follow. In June, the authority voted to put up billboards for advertisements, which will bring in about \$1 million a year.

Where does that leave giant roadside televisions?

In 1990, when Sony put up the Jumbotron in Times Square, the New York City Department of Transportation fretted about safety. The department sent traffic engineers to study whether the screen — which on occa-

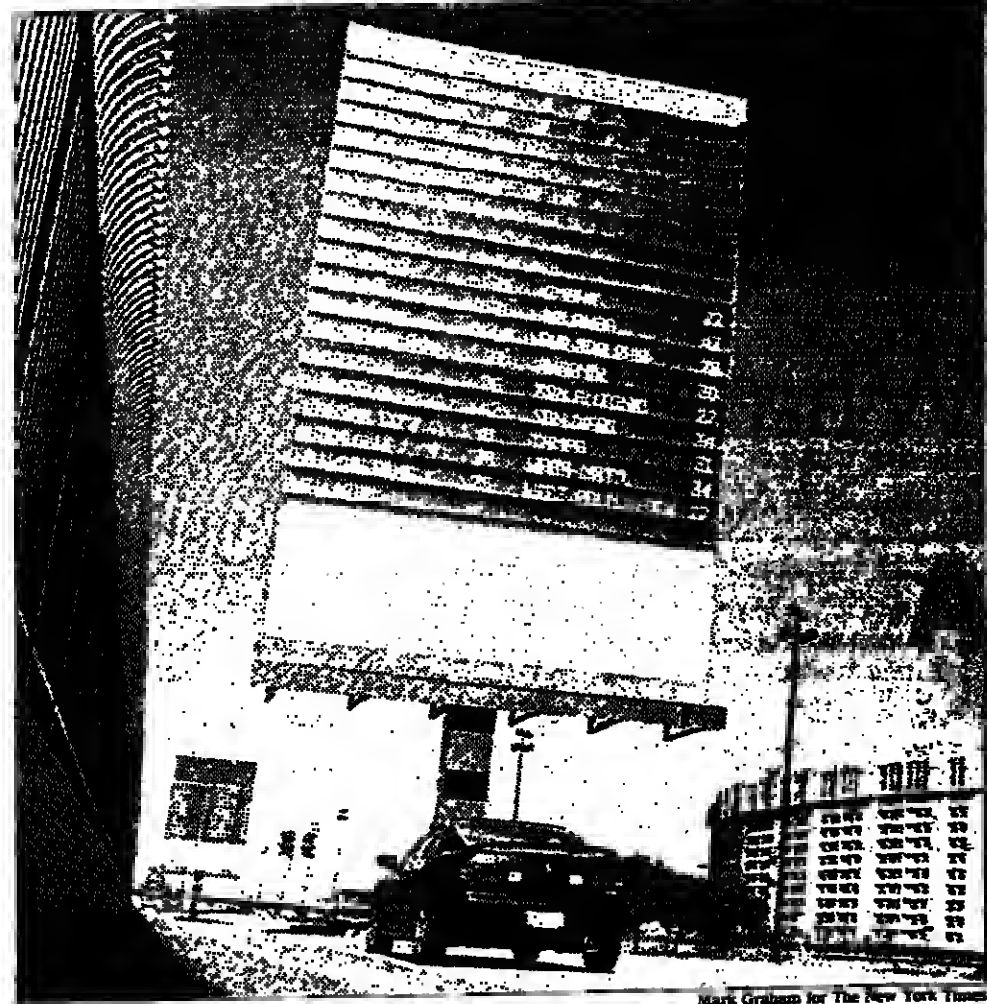
Roadside billboards don't have to say, 'Yo! Look up!' to cause trouble on the ground.

sion demanded attention by flashing "Yo! Look up!" — was affecting the flow of cars. But apparently, traffic in Times Square was just as horrible before the screen went up. Sony said it has not been sued for causing any accidents.

Chicago has done its own informal study. In March, a clothing store painted a three-story-high likeness of Dennis Rodman, the larger-than-life basketball star of the Chicago Bulls, on the side of a warehouse along an expressway near downtown. At the time, Mr. Rodman was very much in the news — he had just been suspended for butting an official with his brightly colored head. So, the mural grabbed the attention of more than a few drivers.

All the "gapers and gawkers," as Chicago's transportation officials called them, caused traffic to slow to a halt, as they checked out Mr. Rodman in a sleeveless suit, exposing his tattooed arms. Some drivers pulled over to take pictures. Others just kept driving — right into the cars in front of them.

Gene Silverberg, the chief executive of the clothing retailer that sponsored the portrait, decided that the giant Rodman had to go. "If someone had gotten hurt, the joke would have worn thin," he said.



The long-winded billboard that cost American Airlines \$20 million in dented bumpers.

Mr. Rodman didn't like the verdict. "I think they should leave it up," he said at the time. "It's not the fault of the people who put it up, it's the people who are driving."

In Dallas, some evidence points elsewhere. Police records show that 30 accidents over three years have been attributed to American Airlines' giant signs, and a 1994 study suggested that it takes the average person 3 to 10 seconds to digest the sign's information.

Still, the airline is angry about the verdict on its electronic signs, grumbling that the car accident was nothing more than a garden-variety rear-end collision. Nonetheless, it unplugged the signs on Friday while it appealed the verdict. Now American Airlines passengers in Dallas can get their gate information over the phone. The question is: who will be blamed for fender benders caused by late travelers dialing their car phones?



National standards in Japan include rote learning and entrance tests. An English class in Tokyo, above.

Building Better Schools

One Size Doesn't Fit

By PETER APPLEBOME

IN almost any other country in the world, the announcement would have caused yawns. But when New York City's Schools Chancellor, Rudy Crew, proposed last week that local schools adopt voluntary, privately developed national education standards, he was touching on one of the great fault lines of American learning: the divisive issue of how to create standards and assessments that foster national excellence in a country utterly committed to decentralized and locally controlled schooling.

Applied Learning

His proposal that the city adopt the recent guidelines developed by the New Standards project in Washington for math, English, science and "applied learning" — writing and math skills useful in the business world — might be evidence of some slow, creeping acceptance of the idea that America needs some agreed-upon rules for what schoolchildren should learn.

But Mr. Crew's gambit also comes at a time when the notion of standards and assessments of any kind flies in the face of the local nature of American education and of fierce anti-Washington currents in the land. Most experts say that, for now, the forces working against any form of national standards are stronger than those pushing for them.

"Talk about political correctness," said Bruce Alberts, president of the National Academy of Sciences. "This is political correctness, the way that everybody's so afraid to talk about anything national in education. Everyone is still afraid of saying the truth: that we'll get nowhere as a nation until we make use of all our resources and that there are some things all students should know regardless of what state they live in."

Pulling in one direction is a recognition that without higher standards America's educational performance is likely to continue faltering, as seen last month in the middle-of-the-pack performance by middle-school American children on international math and science tests. Mr. Alberts says those results are a perfect example of why this country needs to think seriously about standards of the kind adopted by most countries and nearly all those that scored best on the math and science comparisons like Singapore, Japan and Korea.

Pulling in the opposite direction is this country's history of education as a local enterprise and the anti-Washington mood that makes even the hint of a nationally standardized test or curriculum politically a loser. What emerges is an odd dance of trying to establish guides that would lift national achievement without

ceding an iota of local control.

"It's obvious that national standards or a national test is not going to do it," said Gov. Tommy G. Thompson of Wisconsin, co-chairperson of Achieve, the organization that grew out of the 1996 Education Summit held in Palisades, N.Y., to foster high standards. "People are going to rebel against any national standard, and it won't work. And politically it's just a non-starter. The standards are going to have to come from the states." Achieve has raised \$5 million to act as a clearinghouse for state and local school districts on standards and assessments.

But Marc Tucker, co-director of New Standards, said that more telling than the political winds blowing against national standards is the consensus that has emerged about the need for standards and the recognition that it makes no sense for each state to invent the wheel.

"What makes New York so significant," Mr. Tucker said, "is that Rudy Crew got up and became the first person in authority to say what our jurisdiction needs is

Americans say they want national educational standards, like Japan's, to improve pupil achievement. Don't believe it.

national standards: we'll modify and adapt them as we see fit, but they ought to be national standards. It reflects the degree to which the debate on standards has changed."

For now Achieve represents the political compromise, a national organization with no Federal role and no ability to mandate anything.

Advocates of standards, however, hope that states will in the end adopt standards on their own and that Texas students will learn most of the same things as Oregon students.

Still, the process remains so tenuous that Mr. Thompson of Wisconsin did not hesitate when asked what qualities he wanted in the person now sought to run the organization.

"We're looking for a cross between Jesus Christ and Colin Powell and Moses and Solomon," he said.

What Has the Computer Done for America Lately?

Continued From Page 1

venience increases consumption more than production. With computers, "most of the recent use has been on the consumption side," said Zvi Griliches, a Harvard economist. "The time you waste surfing the Internet is not an output."

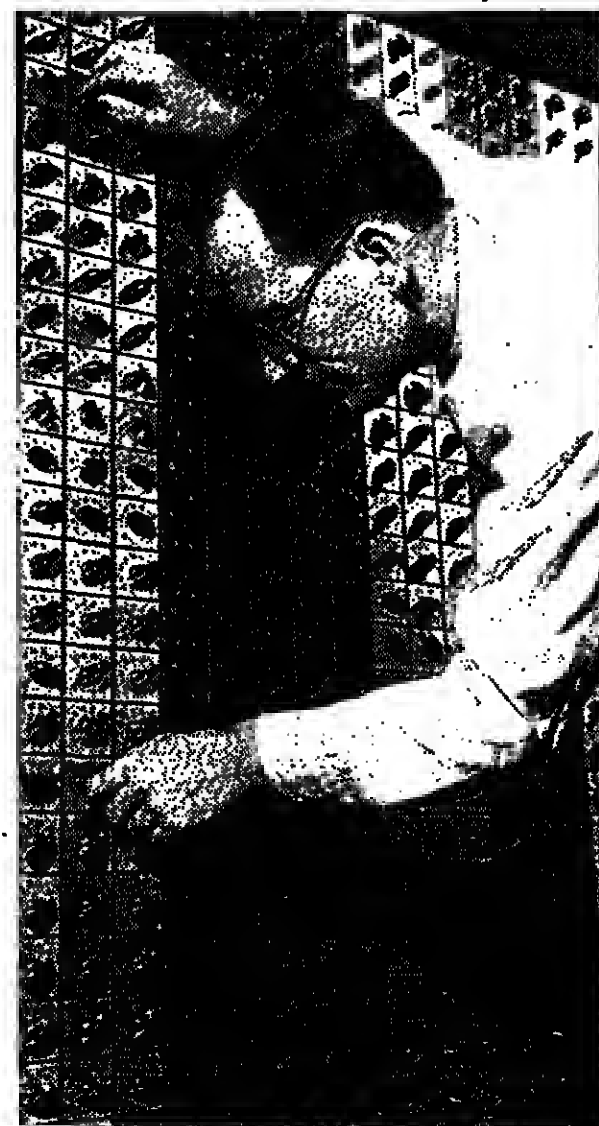
Others take a broader view. Children using home computers for schoolwork — gathering data from the Internet, for example — become better students, they say. In time, that will translate into rising workplace skills and greater measurable output. But it hasn't yet, and standard practice dictates that the nation wait until it shows up in the numbers before proclaiming the computer's great contribution to productivity.

"People have high expectations of this happening overnight," said Nathan Rosenberg, an economic historian at Stanford University. "Computers are a major innovation, but absorbing so great an innovation involves many changes in work practices and behavior."

Useless Power

Right now, much of a personal computer's power goes untapped, or is employed in low-output tasks like sending and sorting through junk E-mail, compiling electronic Rolodexes and playing solitaire in the office. Harnessing a computer's spectacular ability to deliver and manipulate information is not easy. Edward McKelvey, a senior economist at Goldman Sachs, offers a hypothetical illustration:

A consultant who charged \$50 an hour 10 years ago to forecast trends in the economy now has a powerful desktop computer at his fingertips, feeding him information that in theory should make his forecasts more accurate. But he still charges clients \$50 an hour because the forecasts, despite the computer, are not more accurate. Perhaps the consultant might never get that good at forecasting, even with a computer, or perhaps he will become so adept at extracting data from its depths that his forecasts will begin to hit the bull's eye. And that



The American original, the vacuum-tubed Eniac.

Instead of more efficient production, the office of the 1990's has junk E-mail and electronic solitaire.

accuracy would allow him to raise his hourly fee, or "output," to \$70 an hour, a handsome improvement in his productivity.

There are other problems. The automated teller machine, for example, illustrates how measurable productivity has failed to respond fully to computer investment. A half-dozen machines installed in a bank's lobby permit the bank to cut its teller staff by half. That is clearly measurable productivity. The bank's income, or output, from bank transactions remains unchanged, but the input in teller hours goes down. The idled tellers can shift to other income-producing activities, perhaps becoming loan officers.

To make the productivity rate continue rising, however, the bank must continue cutting teller hours as it installs more A.T.M.'s. Instead, the next machines go to a dozen outlying neighborhoods, so that customers can bank at odd hours, almost at their doorsteps, or verify the balances in their checking accounts, something they did not bother to do very often before. A.T.M.'s. That is convenience. Most banks don't charge extra fees for this convenience. If they had no neighborhood A.T.M.'s, then customers would have found themselves forced to use the machines already installed in the lobbies of their banks.

"The question is, how much would you have been willing to pay in fees for the convenience of having that neighborhood A.T.M. if the banks refused to furnish them otherwise?" said Erich Brynjolfsson, an economist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Business. "That would then enter into measurable output."

Through a survey, Mr. Brynjolfsson tried to calculate what additional amounts Americans would pay for hundreds of conveniences that computers make possible. He came up with a total of \$70 billion in additional output. That would add only one-tenth of one percent to the national wealth, which is the value of all the goods and services produced in the United States in a year — hardly enough to get economic growth back to the rates (at least 3 percent a year) that were characteristic of the 1950's and 1960's.

A Little Help

Still, computers and software in all their various forms make an important contribution. The national wealth — also known as the gross domestic product — has risen at an annual rate of less than 2.5 percent, on average, in recent years. That includes a contribution of roughly four-tenths of a percentage point from computers and their trappings, according to the calculations of two Federal Reserve economists, Stephen D. Oliner and Daniel E. Sichel. Manufacturing and the telecommunications industry have benefited especially from computerization.

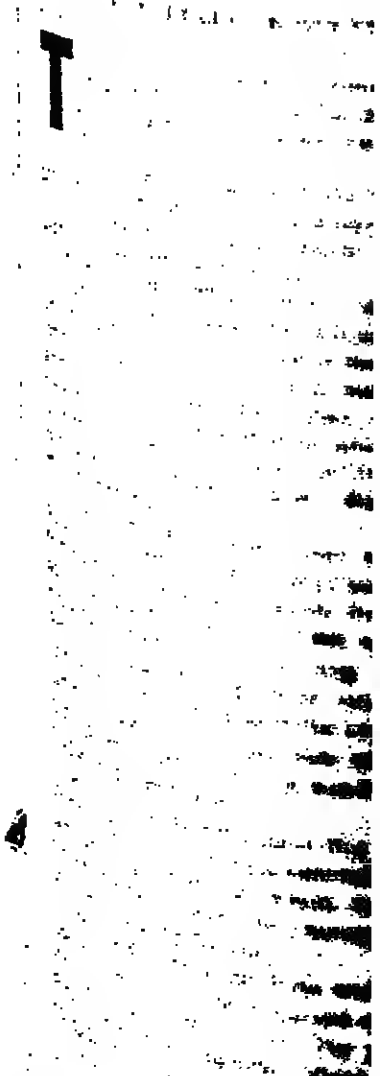
But why haven't computers lifted the overall economy the rest of the way back to 3 percent growth? One reason is that they represent only 2 percent of the nation's capital stock, which is all the existing machinery, equipment, factories and buildings that business uses to produce goods and services.

By comparison, railroads in their heyday represented more than 12 percent. And they became the tool for opening up frontier lands to agriculture, and to new cities and industries. At the same time, electric motors, replacing steam, gave the nation a much more flexible and efficient source of power, and made possible the assembly line. The output resulting from railroads and electric motors became enormous.

Perhaps there is some set of conditions, having no direct connection to computers, that must develop before American productivity and economic growth can return to the old levels — conditions like greater demand for the potential output from computers, or hegemony again in the global economy.

Or perhaps, as some economists say, we should lower our expectations.

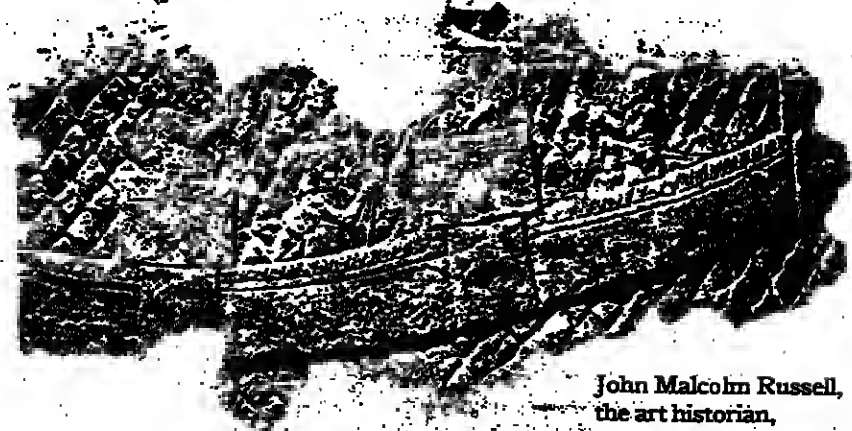
The World Ancient. And Gone



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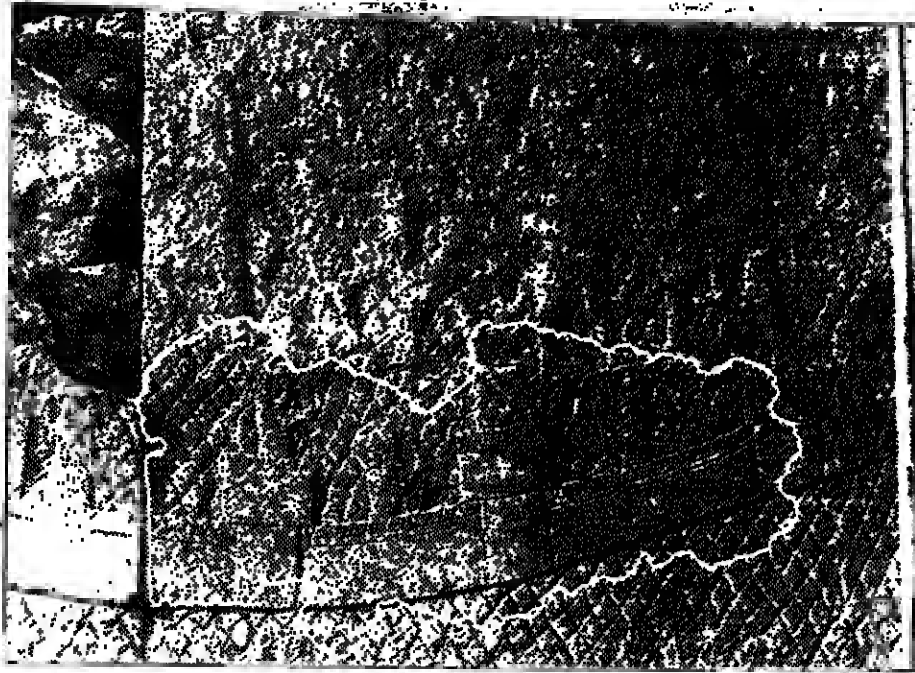
The World

Ancient, Priceless And Gone With the War



John Malcolm Russell, the art historian, recognized a photograph of this fragment.

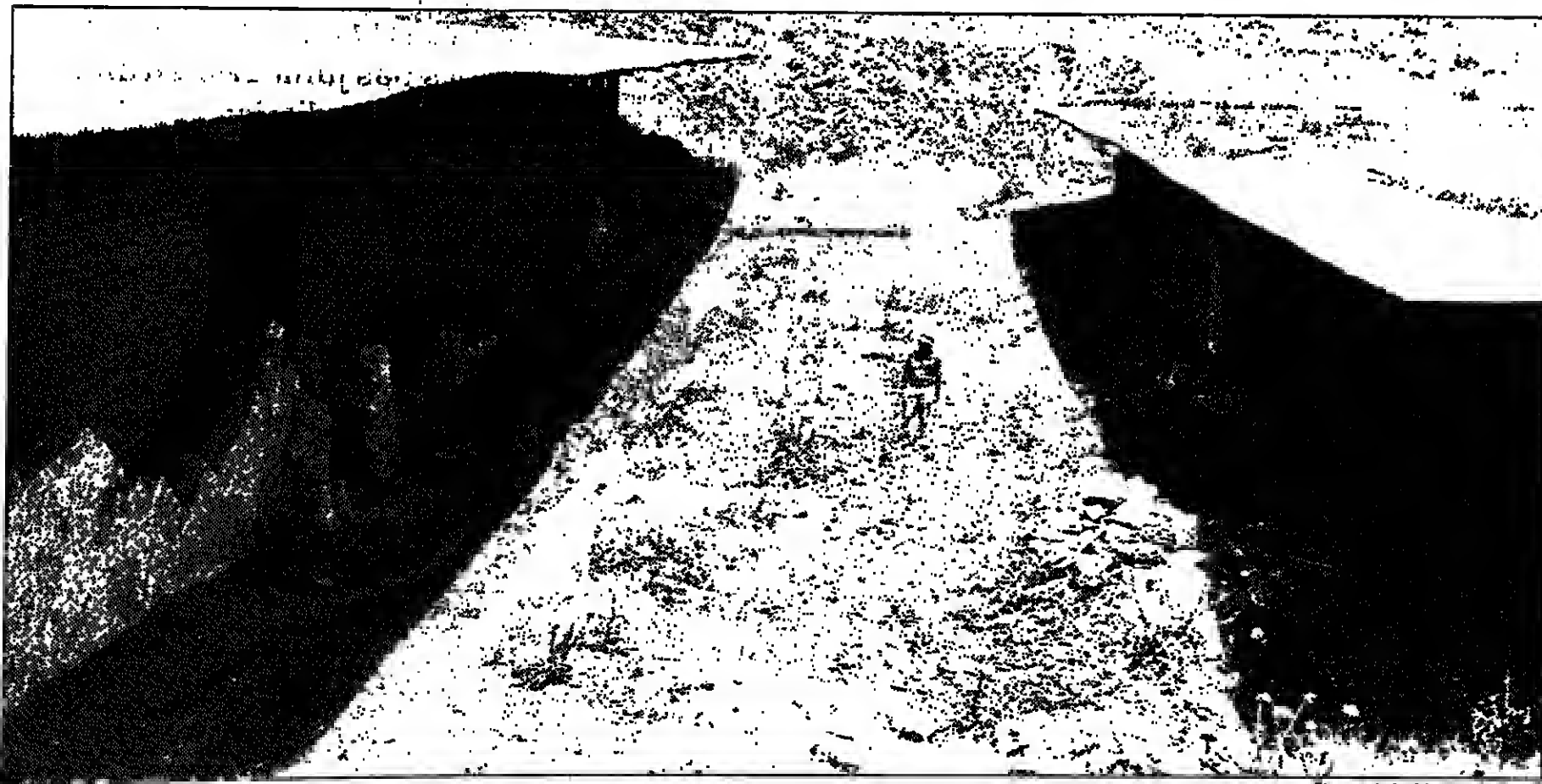
Mr. Russell also was shown a photograph of this archaeological fragment, believed to have been stolen in Iraq.



The fragment, top, outlined on a 1990 photograph of detail from a sculpted slab.



A huge alabaster relief, with the fragment, top, outlined.



The archaeological museum in Iraq that contained Assyrian carvings from the palace of Sennacherib, in 1990. The carvings were vandalized after the gulf war.

By BARBARA CROSSETTE

THE story begins about 27 centuries ago, when Sennacherib, King of Assyria, the greatest empire the world had known, failed to conquer Jerusalem in 701 B.C.

"And that night, the angel of the Lord went forth and slew 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians," the Bible says in II Kings 19. "The Sennacherib, King of Assyria, went home, and dwelt at Nineveh."

It wasn't his last defeat. Not by 2,697 years. Last month John Malcolm Russell, a Columbia University art historian who is one of the world's leading experts on Sennacherib's palace at Nineveh, got some wrenching news. An unknown seller was offering 10 pieces of art from ancient Mesopotamia, which is now southern Iraq. A lawyer for a prospective buyer, photos in hand, wanted to know: Did Mr. Russell think they might have been stolen?

"I knew right away where they were from," Mr. Russell said last week. The pictures were of fragments from magnificent alabaster reliefs that had lined the walls of the palace at least until 1990, when Mr. Russell photographed them on his last trip before the 1991 Persian Gulf war. Among those reliefs, part of an archaeological site museum near the city of Mosul, were carvings telling the Assyrian side of the Jerusalem campaign. Sennacherib's version was that the Israelites had paid tribute and he left.

But much has happened since this century's war in the Persian Gulf. International sanctions have impoverished the Iraqis, many of whom have sold family heirlooms for food. Today the country's archaeological treasures are also up for sale.

The life and times of one of the world's greatest and oldest civilizations had been carved on massive stone slabs up to eight feet square. The photographs Mr. Russell saw were of fragments about a square foot in size hacked from those slabs.

"It only dawned on me a few hours later that what this meant was that there was a pile of broken stone left behind," he said, "that what we had here was not just an

act of vandalism and looting but a conservation emergency of the first magnitude."

Mr. Russell, author of "Sennacherib's Palace: Without Rival at Nineveh" (University of Chicago, 1991), says the exact extent of the damage is unknown. "I don't know if these are the only 10 pieces on the market. I'd be surprised. Ten sculptures from Sennacherib's palace is an unheard-of number to appear on the market at once. When something appears in quantity like that, you've got to ask yourself, how can this be?"

And who did it? Mr. Russell has been called in as art sleuth before. Twice in 1995, a European museum asked his opinion on works believed to have been stolen from Iraq. In 1992 he and Julian Reade of the British Museum found a four-

An unintended casualty of the gulf war has been Iraq's archeological wonders.

foot-by-six-foot Assyrian stone carving behind a thick coat of paint in the commissary of a boys' boarding school in Canford, England. The school sold it for \$12 million in 1994 to the Shumel Family Collection in Japan.

The story of the Canford sculpture and the connoisseurship of Lady Charlotte, a wealthy Victorian who built a pavilion for it and other Assyrian treasures, became another book by Mr. Russell, "From Nineveh to New York," to be published by Yale University Press in February. New York City's Metropolitan Museum houses some of the collection.

Lady Charlotte was a cousin of Sir Austen Henry Layard, who excavated Sennacherib's palace in 1847 as well as other sites on commission from the British Museum. The carving recalling the confrontation at Jerusalem struck a chord in England during a period of religious doubt and scriptural revisionism. Fundamen-

talists seized on these "proofs."

Many poor countries with rich archeological sites cannot afford to safeguard them, and are vulnerable to smugglers. By almost all accounts, though, Iraq—even under Saddam Hussein—took good care of its rediscovered antiquities through most of this century. The sanctions against it have kept archeologists and art historians from the sites, and difficulties felt by Iraqis have made the country's centuries-old ruins prey to thieves, with or without the connivance of local officials. Most archeologists and diplomats believe that there is on high-level involvement in these thefts.

"Given the economic hardships that people are under, obviously there are many who resort to criminal acts to try to make some money," said Nizar Hamdoon, Iraq's representative at the United Nations. "There are a thousand sites that need to be guarded and provided with security. It is difficult for the antiquities establishment in Baghdad to find those resources."

Mr. Russell said that he thinks people who steal and sell items are paid a pittance, and that pieces small enough to be carted away on donkeys or in backpacks slip easily into Iran, Syria or Jordan. Once on the market, they change hands for thousands of dollars, often tens of thousands.

UNESCO, the United Nations cultural organization, has been denied permission to photograph and catalogue Iraqi sites by the Security Council Sanctions Committee. American diplomats said photographic equipment was denied entry because it was considered nonessential goods.

Mr. Russell, who alerted the United States Customs Service, Scotland Yard and arts organizations, hopes prospective buyers of Assyrian art will refuse pieces of uncertain origin, dampening the trade. "Iraq was a country that cherished its heritage and had an excellent antiquities department that carried on its work right through the miserable Iran-Iraq war," he said. "It's only with sanctions and the breakdown of the middle class—as groups of desperate people do desperate things—that we have a breakdown in the national will or pride in that heritage. This is fostered by desperation. It could happen anywhere."

From Paris With Love: Raspberries

By CRAIG R. WHITNEY

FRANCE'S closest friend through the years has probably been the United States, the ally the French most love to hate. President Jacques Chirac considers himself an Americanophile, but in France this term is relative. Like de Gaulle, Mr. Chirac has been poking the United States in the eye lately, making trouble for plans to reorganize the NATO alliance, among other things.

Why? When everything is going as badly as it has been lately for Mr. Chirac and his Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, the overbearing Americans are a handy diversionary target. The two French leaders are burdened with grave problems, ranging from the possible resurgence of Algerian-related terrorism to a stubborn unemployment rate—12.6 percent—and their popularity ratings are at record lows.

Blaming German monetary conservatism is tempting but risky: the French simply can't afford to alienate the Germans. But the big, clumsy, affable Americans are used to tongue-lashings from the French, and so have become their favorite target.

"Treat your friends the way you would if they were going to become your enemies one day," the French statesman Cardinal Jules Mazarin wrote to himself in the 17th century. More recently, de Gaulle railed against American domination and pulled the French military out of NATO's integrated command structure. Now it is Mr. Chirac's turn.

A year ago, Mr. Chirac said he wanted France back in NATO's command structure, but now he says that can't happen because of America's refusal to consider ceding an important NATO command in Naples to European control (never mind that the biggest military asset of the Naples command, by far, is the mighty American Sixth Fleet). The French demand, coming on the heels of their failed effort to stop the United States from dumping Boutros Bou-

Think about it. Who can you most safely insult? Your old friends. Mais oui.

ros-Ghali as United Nations Secretary General, has snagged the reorganization plan, and the NATO foreign ministers will be unable to give it final approval when they meet in Brussels this week.

Is this inept? Not to the French. Railing at American big business, protesting when McDonald's tries to infiltrate chic Parisian neighborhoods, and challenging American domination make up a popular national pastime, and popularity is one thing Mr. Chirac and Mr. Juppé badly need these days.

The source of most of the unhappiness is popular frustration with the high unemployment. Yet Mr. Chirac and his Prime Minister insist that there is no choice but to keep reining in spending to qualify France under the stringent rules—rules that Germany insists upon—for the common European currency that is planned for the end of the decade.

How to make that grinch-that-stole-Christmas policy popular? Try this, from Mr. Chirac: "We need a currency that is strong and powerful that would allow us to resist aberrant fluctuations in the dollar."

French politicians of every ideology think the Clinton Administration has been deliberately keeping the dollar weak. Thus, in their view, is how American companies like Boeing can underbid European companies like Airbus Industrie on world markets.

Educated to admire state interventionism since Jean-Baptiste Colbert ran the country under Louis XIV, the French are convinced that governments, not markets, set the value of currencies, and that official American pronouncements have more of a role in weakening the dollar than America's huge trade deficits do. That American Treasury Secretaries and Federal Reserve bankers keep saying they're for a strong dollar just seems to the French like cynical manipulation.

In France nothing is ever what it seems on the surface, so the French, using good Cartesian logic, think it can't be anywhere else, either.

And blaming the United States for their troubles is becoming more popular with the French, only 35 percent of whom, according to a recent Sofres poll for Le Monde and the RTL television network, like America these days, while 46 percent actively dislike it. Eight years ago, 54 percent expressed varying degrees of sympathy with the United States, compared with 38 percent who felt antipathy.

Ask the French these days what they associate with the United States and 59 percent of them say "violence," 57 percent say "power," 45 percent say "social inequalities" and 39 percent say "racism."

The Indispensable American

Perhaps it's because they see so many American movies that they feel this way. The French flock to see American films in preference to their own, which the Government subsidizes in order to keep French cinema from being completely suffocated by Hollywood; November's runaway film favorites in Paris were "Independence Day" and "Mission Impossible," paeans to the invincible and omnipresent American (or at least, in "Mission Impossible," to Tom Cruise).

Repressed envy may be another reason why the French like Americans less these days. They certainly don't like to hear American politicians and economic experts tell them that the lower American minimum wage and a labor market that leaves employers freer to hire and fire are the main reasons the United States has created 8 million new jobs in the past four years and France has created none.

(This year, French truck drivers used highways in knots until they won higher pay and the right to retire at age 55 instead of 60.)

De Gaulle used to say that France could fulfill its destiny for greatness by creating a united Europe, an idea that for him and for his successors has always been associated with challenging the United States.

When the European common currency that is causing such trouble here comes, Mr. Chirac says, "Europe will be the most important economic power in the world, at least for some time, and of course that would worry certain people here and there."

He named no names. But we know who we are.

ECONOMY

Leslie H. Wexner: Merlin of the Mall Seeks New Magic

By JENNIFER STEINHAUER and EDWARD WYATT

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The real problem, Leslie H. Wexner says, is other people. Whenever the women's apparel business has slipped at his \$8 billion company, the Limited Inc., he has devised the right fixes, he says. It's his subordinates — the merchants who bought the goods that ended up gathering dust on the shelves of the Limited, Express and Victoria's Secret stores — who have failed to come through.

Then there are the mall developers. They became "mindless about the tenant mix" in the 1990's, took the fun out of shopping by building cookie-cutter sites and dragged down the Limited and other retailers. It is the men and women of Wall Street, Mr. Wexner says with unbridled scorn, who failed to appreciate the true value of the Limited, without a doubt the dominant specialty retailer in the American mall.

Nevertheless, Mr. Wexner says he now has a grand plan to satisfy investors and to turn around the business, whose stock has disappointed shareholders for much of the last four years as sales growth has slowed and profits have fallen. Under the guidance of a Harvard Business School professor, he is moving to centralize certain functions, ranging from financial management to clothing design teams that can churn out hot fashions to draw women into the stores.

he is using the Limited's resources to design a 1,200-acre retail, entertainment and business complex in Columbus, a project that he says will serve as a model for retailing development in this country — if not the world.

And while he does not pretend to understand Wall Street, he predicts that recent moves, including the public stock offering of two subsidiaries, will soon add billions to the company's market value.

"The turnaround in the company probably came last spring," Mr. Wexner said with characteristic bravado in a recent interview at the headquarters here. As evidence, he predicted that fourth-quarter profits would rise by close to 50 percent, far above the expectations of Wall Street, which is familiar with his habit of making rosy projections only to disappoint come earnings time.

Even if the engineers better short-term profits, however, bigger changes will not come easily. The corporate culture that pumped life into the Limited in the 1980's has eroded as the company has evolved from a cool fashion leader to a lumbering conglomerate. Left behind are burned-out merchants and only the remnants of an intangible mystique that drew young talent from New York to the Midwest.

And Mr. Wexner, whose flair for fashion and merchandising fueled the Limited's meteoric rise, remains an entrepreneur at heart, endlessly delving into new retail concepts, the latest being a sporting goods superstore. Perhaps because of that temperament, he has consistently failed

to resuscitate the troubled women's units — Limited, Express, Lane Bryant and Lerner New York — that together contribute more than half of the company's sales but less than 10 percent of its profits.

A further distraction seems to be his concern with his legacy. In Columbus, Mr. Wexner is a veritable second mayor, shepherding cultural projects downtown while using his personal riches (his Limited stock alone is worth \$1.25 billion) to develop an exclusive residential enclave nearby.

Mr. Wexner's habit of flitting from one project to another, while always asserting that the Limited's struggling core business was on the mend, has frustrated some big shareholders. "I have made up my mind that in the next couple months, we are going to be gone," said Marina Carlson, a mutual fund manager at Strong Capital Management, which earlier this year owned nearly a million Limited shares. "If they could get their act together, this could be a good stock. But in typical Limited fashion, they came out with lowered expectations again this quarter. It is just amazing to me."

Wall Street's confusion is evident in the valuations it places on the company's three publicly traded stocks. The parent, the Limited Inc., owns about 82 percent each of Abercrombie & Fitch and Intimate Brands, which includes Victoria's Secret. Those stakes are worth a combined \$28 a share to Limited investors. But the parent company's stock is trading at just \$18.25, up a slight 7 percent since the beginning of 1994. Meanwhile, the Standard & Poor's retail stock index has gained 22 percent and the S & P. 500 has risen 61 percent.

founder when a new toy enters the playpen.

In the mid-1980's, for example, the Limited and Express were the places for American women to stock up on sweaters and cool pants, and Mr. Wexner's love for those divisions and their chief merchants was well known. In 1982, the company bought Victoria's Secret amid scorn from skeptics, and its sales quickly boomed as he lavished attention on it. In 1985, after buying Henri Bendel, Mr. Wexner obsessed over every detail of store openings and, former employees said, promised to roll out stores across the nation. By 1990, Bendel's sales had fallen flat, and Limited's latest faux-import line, Paul et Duffier, had failed.

Never fear, Mr. Wexner already had his eyes on Bath and Body Works, the Intimate Brands unit that sprouted seemingly overnight in malls across the country. But as that unit hit full stride this fall, sales flattened at the Victoria's Secret catalogue division. Now, Mr. Wexner expresses excitement about his sporting goods venture, called Galvan's Trading Company, with just six stores so far but ambitious plans.

Susan Silverstein, a retail stock analyst at Gruntal & Company, said: "Each division as they grow has to stay on the ball, which is easier to do when you are small and nimble. But this is the fashion business, and to stay nimble on the fashion side is no easy task."

As a result of inattention, analysts say, the Limited divisions mostly look alike now. Even those shoppers who can hum a Sears, Roebuck jingle impromptu are hard-pressed to cite differences among the Limited's core businesses, largely because the company has long resisted national advertising and other forms of marketing.

"The Limited is for young kids, while Express goes a little older," said Barbara Terrell, on a recent shopping trip at a Lerner store in Columbus.

Melanie, her 20-year-old daughter, disagreed: "I would say it is other way around."

"Maybe you're right," Mrs. Terrell conceded. "All of their clothes kind of blur together for me."

For the record, Mr. Wexner said, Express is intended for single, chic shoppers; Limited stores for suburban mothers, and Lerner for career women on a budget.



Leslie H. Wexner

overlap in merchandise from store to store each season, merchants say it has transformed them from creators who zip around the globe looking for emerging trends into corporate drones whose authority is limited to saying, "O.K., make that in green," or "Bring the hem down two inches."

"As the Limited started to really grow and expand," said Pamela Goodman, who resigned as president of Lerner New York in January, "all of these divisions became a little more bureaucratic and dictated from the top, and that was a little boring to me. A lot of the power has been taken away from merchants."

Mr. Wexner said the need for the changes became apparent to him three years ago after a series of conversations with Jack Welch, the chairman of General Electric, a multidivisional conglomerate whose performance Mr. Wexner envies.

Allan F. Tessler, chairman of the international Financial Group and one of only three of the Limited's 13 board members who have no apparent ties to the company or to Mr. Wexner, said that the board remained watchful and that it had "demanded that he get help" running the business.

No matter whose idea, in early 1993 Mr. Wexner hired as a consultant Leonard A. Schlesinger, a Harvard Business School professor who has since been made a director.

"I walked into a company that really was a collection of entrepreneurial-minded people," Mr. Schlesinger said, "where anything that smacked of centralized involvement or mandates was absolutely verboten."

To address problems created by three decades of haphazard growth, Mr. Schlesinger designed a system to centralize information systems, the hiring of senior personnel for the divisions and general financial controls, and put them under the direction of subordinates to Mr. Wexner. He also set out to begin redefining the company's retail units into distinct brands.

Central to the plan's effectiveness is Mr. Wexner's ability to work with such clearly drawn lines — and Mr. Schlesinger acknowledged that this remains to be seen. "I would agree that Leslie Wexner has not been a hands-off leader at any time in the history of the business," Mr. Schlesinger said. Indeed, when two reporters arrived to interview Mr. Wexner on a recent afternoon, they found him giggling over a television advertisement for a new Victoria's Secret bra. He recalled, with fresh fury, the tale of a "former" marketing manager whose suggestion for the bra's name — Hide and Slink — evoked a car wax in his mind. Mr. Wexner chose another name: Perfect Silhouette.

"Ten years ago the culture was one that encouraged shared decision-making at lower levels in the organization," said Kirk Palmer, a former midlevel executive at the Limited who now runs a retail executive search firm. "Unfortunately, bureaucracy and politics have made their way into the business, which stifles creativity."

Mr. Wexner's propensity to dabble in all aspects of the business continues to vex Limited executives, who sometimes vent their frustrations outside the company. "There is stress in the organization," said Herbert Mines, a retailing executive recruiter. For that reason, he said, "They may have a little bit of trouble ooh keeping people."

Mr. Wexner is known for being intolerant of employees who do not meet his expectations or carry out his edicts. Several years ago, one

senior executive's first task as a division president was to dismiss nine people, who were told to clean out their desks before being escorted from the building by security. Mr. Wexner said recently that "forcing turnover, being aggressive about it, is healthy for the organization." Another former employee recalled that phone records were scoured by company executives to determine which employees were talking to executive recruiters. Mr. Wexner said he could not recall such an inquiry.

Mr. Wexner, who gives a deep shrug when asked about personnel issues, said he was not difficult to get along with. "The furthest thing I see myself from is an autocrat," he said. He calls himself "a leader, reflective, open to ideas, challenging, fair, visionary."

But another example of how his relationships can turn unpleasant is a dispute at his charitable group, the Wexner Foundation, which has given away more than \$5 million in each of the last three years. Last year, it filed suit against his mother, Bella Wexner, a nonagenarian, in the Court of Common Pleas for Franklin County, Ohio. The dispute centers on a period in 1992-93 when Mrs. Wexner, who along with Mr. Wexner was one of the foundation's two trustees, was incapacitated by illness. At that time, Mr. Wexner appointed a new trustee in her stead, a move she now opposes.

Mr. Wexner concedes that he does not always operate on the same plane as everyone else. "I think temperamentally I've always lived in my own world, and that world is very much in the future," he said. "I don't get much pleasure out of today."

In addition to having spent most of his life as a bachelor — he married in 1993 at age 53 and now has three children — in childhood he was "a daydreamer kind of kid."

Recently, it seems, Mr. Wexner has dreamed about real estate, residential and commercial.

Stretching for miles east of Columbus along Ohio Route 161 are new white plank fences. The highway, too, seems spanning new six lanes of free-flowing, high-speed access to Columbus, a stark contrast to traffic snarls in other parts of town.

Welcome to New Albany. The fenced-in land belongs to Mr. Wexner's New Albany Company, the developer of an exclusive, 6,000-acre enclave where 550,000 Georgian brick houses are popping up like dandelions after a wet spring.

While driving through the Ohio countryside some 10 years ago, Mr. Wexner was taken with the beauty of this rolling farmland. So he quietly began buying it up from local residents with his personal funds, through an anonymous corporation.

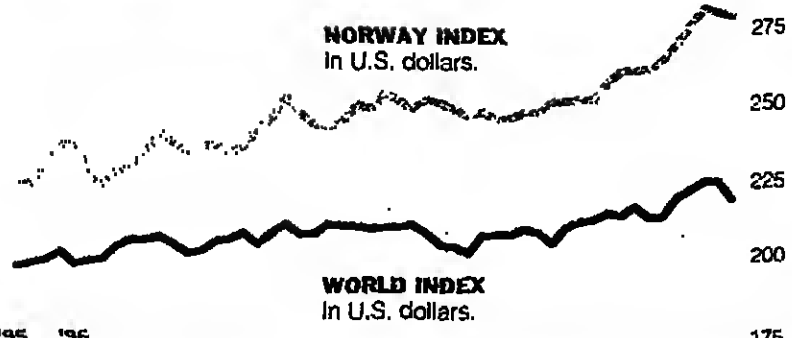
A second project, across the highway from the Limited's offices along Interstate 270, is being paid for in part by the Limited Inc. It is Easton, the vast shopping, business, entertainment and residential complex now under construction.

According to plans disclosed by Mr. Wexner in January, Easton will require \$1.5 billion in private investment. Most of that will come from outside developers, though the Limited has already put \$75 million into the design and development.

Despite that commitment, the Easton project has gone without mention in the Limited's reports to shareholders that are filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Asked why Easton had not earned a reference in those documents, Mr. Wexner said, "We never felt it was a disclosable item," because it was small in comparison with the company's annual capital expenditures of \$300 million or more. Much of the land on which Easton is being built was acquired over the last 15 years, he said, and that investment will be recouped in 1997.

Mr. Wexner's plan for Easton is sweeping: he aims to recast the mold of the American shopping center. "I fundamentally believe in the mall," he said. But in three decades, there have been few drastic changes in how tenants are chosen or grouped, in mall architecture or in the decisions that make shopping a pleasant experience, he said. Mr. Wexner will not specify exactly what will be so different about Easton — scheduled to open in stages over the next few years — but he says that without his reinvention of the mall, that distinctly American retailing creation will "wither on the vine."

WORLD STOCK MARKETS



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actuaries World Indices, a measure of stock-market performance. The FT indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

Table with columns: Country, Index, Week % Chg., Week Rank, YTD % Chg., YTD Rank, Dividend Yield, Index, YTD % Chg. Includes rows for Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United States.

Table with columns: Region, Index, Week % Chg., Week Rank, YTD % Chg., YTD Rank, Dividend Yield, Index, YTD % Chg. Includes rows for Europe, Pacific Basin, Europe/Pacific, World.

Table with columns: Exchange rate, Friday, Last Friday, Week % Chg., Year Ago. Includes rows for Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar, German marks to the U.S. dollar, Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar, U.S. dollars to the British pound.

Undoubtedly, Leslie Wexner is one of the great merchant princes of the late 20th century. Starting with a single store and \$5,000 in 1963, he updated the business of selling clothing to women by offering them fashionable separates for particular life styles, like Shaker knit sweaters that evoked the Italian countryside and preppy shirts that were theoretically great for a day in the Australian Outback.

Investors who recognized the concepts' potential in the early 1980's watched the company open new stores and start new divisions like Express. All the while, their Limited stock appreciated from less than \$1 a share, adjusted for splits, to a high of nearly \$33 in 1992. But the stock has not traded above \$25 since early 1993.

Mr. Wexner's transformation from modest shopkeeper to billionaire evokes unreserved admiration from those who watched it. "He's like a wizard," said Norma LaMoireaux, a longtime Columbus resident who first met Mr. Wexner in the early 1960's. "One never knows what he's thinking, but he weaves these grand plans and then suddenly everything falls into place."

Few outside the hard-core mall crawlers have any idea of the breadth of the Limited's retail portfolio, which offers a theme store for nearly every occasion. In addition to Limited and Express, the women's shops present in nearly every big mall in the country, the company operates Lerner New York, which sells discount sportswear, and Lane Bryant, a specialist in large sizes.

Usually nearby in the mall is Structure, a young men's shop, and, in lower spots, Abercrombie & Fitch, for latter-day preppies of both sexes with a penchant for field hockey, tailgate parties and the sweater vest. Limited Too has clothes for children and infants.

A stroll past the traditional snook-and-frock shops in the mall often leads to the Intimate Brands units: Victoria's Secret, the now-famous outpost of lace bras and three-for-the-price-of-two panties, and Bath and Body Works, the company's biggest recent success, a dewberry-scented world of soaps, lotions and bath mits. There are also four Henri Bendel stores, in select locations, and a handful of other shops here and there.

An empire so large might be expected to have trouble running on all cylinders at once. But over the years, the Limited has fallen into an alarming pattern: it develops exciting new stores, nurtures them into industry leaders, then watches them

flounder when a new toy enters the playpen.

But retail experts and former Limited employees say Mr. Wexner's management style has depressed morale and earnings. He is oddly positioned himself, they say, as both a micromanager who waxes his hands on all parts of the business, often at the expense of others' ideas, and as a distanced and overtaxed executive who increasingly gives power to corporate bean counters.

One part of Mr. Wexner's grand revitalization plan particularly irked the Limited's merchants: the creation of fashion teams set up to design clothes and styles specific to each division. Though the strategy was intended to stop the confusing

UPS AND DOWNS

Dec. 2-6: Stocks Drop as Greenspan Scares the Market; Bonds Fall, Too

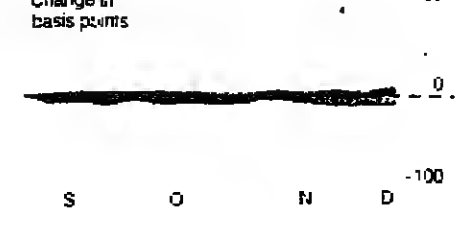
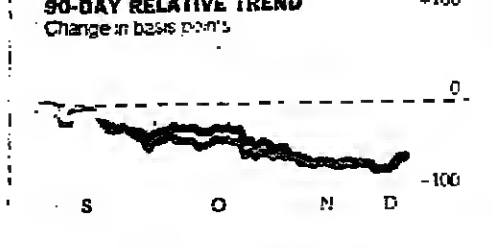
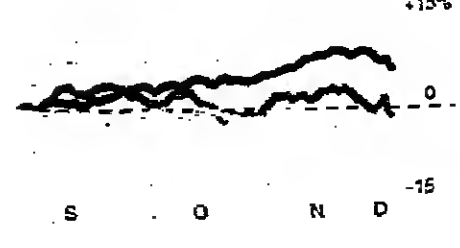
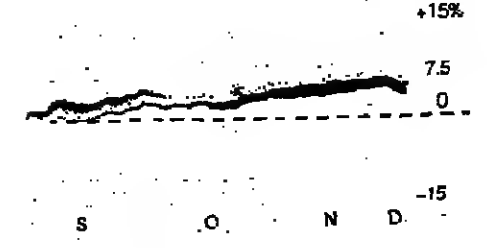
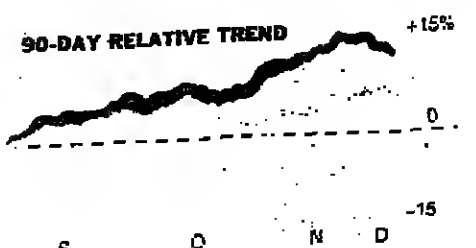
Table with columns: Category, Index, Change. Includes rows for Broad market, S & P. 500 index, Blue chips, Dow 30 industrials, Small capitalization, Russell 2000 index.

Table with columns: Category, Index, Change. Includes rows for Treasuries, Ryan Labs Total Return, Municipals, Bond Buyer index, Corporates, Merrill Lynch Master index.

Table with columns: Category, Index, Change. Includes rows for European stocks, F.T.-Actuaries Europe, Asian stocks, F.T.-Actuaries Pacific Basin, Gold, New York cash price.

Table with columns: Category, Index, Change. Includes rows for Long bonds, 30-year Treasuries, Notes, 2-year Treasuries, Municipals, Bond Buyer index.

Table with columns: Category, Index, Change. Includes rows for Money market funds, Taxable average, Bank C.D.'s, 1-year small savers, Stocks, S & P. 500 dividend yield.



Source: Bank Rate Monitor, Bloomberg Financial Markets, The Bond Buyer, DataStream, Goldman Sachs, IBC's Money Fund Report, Merrill Lynch, Standard & Poor's, Rydex, S&P

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The Incurable C.I.A.

As a devoted Boston Red Sox fan, Anthony Lake is accustomed to tribulation and disappointment. That may be a good thing, for as the next Director of Central Intelligence he is likely to face a lifetime of frustration packed into just a few years. The Central Intelligence Agency, the flagship organization of the espionage empire he will run, is close to incorrigible. Six years after the disintegration of the Soviet Union and end of the cold war, the C.I.A. is still struggling to get its bearings and still resisting reform.

Mr. Lake, who served as President Clinton's national security adviser the last four years, needs to complete a transformation of the C.I.A. that his predecessors either fumbled, or in the case of the incumbent, John Deutch, did not stay long enough to see through. Almost every aspect of the agency's activities requires further change, including production of intelligence reports, overseas operations and budget management. Most of all, Mr. Lake must make the C.I.A. accountable and insist on the highest ethical standards in its conduct.

The United States needs effective and supple intelligence services to deal with serious threats like terrorism and the spread of nuclear technologies and to monitor developments in countries like China, Iran, Iraq and North Korea. The dangers are too great for Washington to tolerate a drifting, undisciplined and demoralized C.I.A.

Mr. Deutch leaves a strong legacy of reform, and it is dismaying that he gave President Clinton little choice but to make him Secretary of Defense or watch him return to private life. Under Mr. Deutch's firm direction, the C.I.A. and other intelligence agencies pinned budget planning to realistic intelligence needs rather than the reflexive expansion of existing programs. But the overall intelligence budget remains bloated at \$30 billion, not

much different from annual spending levels during the cold war.

Mr. Deutch encouraged greater collaboration at the C.I.A. between the analysts who prepare intelligence assessments and the operatives who run espionage activities abroad, something that should have been done years ago. He concentrated agency resources on targets like Iran, China and North Korea. Mr. Lake, as a longtime consumer of intelligence reports, should be able to sharpen the agency's work to better serve Mr. Clinton and other policy makers.

Mr. Deutch also helped break down barriers between the C.I.A. and Federal Bureau of Investigation that long hampered the investigation of betrayals within the C.I.A., most notably in the case of Aldrich Ames. The changes helped lead to the recent arrest of Harold Nicholson, a C.I.A. officer charged with selling secrets to Russia.

But for all Mr. Deutch's effort, the C.I.A. proved impervious to change in fundamental areas. His disciplining of C.I.A. officers for serious misconduct in Guatemala stirred resentment in the operations staff, as did the actions he took against former employees who had misrepresented information tainted by the Ames betrayal. His determination to set ethical guidelines for the recruitment of foreign agents was ridiculed. Across the agency there was resistance to Mr. Deutch's more demanding standards and tight management.

Nearly 50 years since the creation of the C.I.A., the agency's operations directorate retains an insular, arrogant culture that breeds a dangerous contempt for democratic principles and accountability. Mr. Deutch could not break it. Mr. Lake will now have his chance. His performance on this central issue will be the ultimate measure of his success as Director of Central Intelligence.

A Sensible Plan for Rent Decontrol

About a million apartments in New York City are covered by rent regulations that will expire this June. The Republican majority leader of the State Senate, Joseph Bruno, announced Thursday that he will not allow a renewal of the laws, unless it is tied to a plan for swift deregulation.

Mr. Bruno is right to call for decontrol. Rent regulation has not served New York City well. It has discouraged investment in the upkeep of old properties and the construction of new ones. The laws hurt the entire city by reducing the tax base. An expensive and extremely cumbersome state bureaucracy is required to implement them. Especially galling, the laws create an irrational system in which some well-to-do tenants pay very little rent for large apartments while less-prosperous newcomers are forced to pay rates that are artificially inflated by the shortage of market-rate housing.

But a system that affects so many people should not be undone hastily. Mr. Bruno's proposal to eliminate all rent control and stabilization laws in two years is far too abrupt. Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, on the other hand, seems committed to retaining the system as it is.

The politics of this standoff are obvious. Mr. Silver's Democrats are based in New York City, where well over two million people live in rent-regulated dwellings. Mr. Bruno's upstate political base couldn't care less about New York City rent regulations. But city real estate interests, which stand to get enormous windfalls from deregulation, are big campaign contributors to state Republicans, including Mr. Bruno.

Rent regulation has been here for a half-century and scrapping it suddenly would create major economic and social dislocation. Although the market rents in many poor neighborhoods are already lower than legal limits, there are still tens of thousands of low-income people whose housing costs will go up sharply when rents are decontrolled. Many families with more money will still have to move to areas with lower market rates. Businesses and service workers will lose income as

money that rent-regulated tenants were able to spend on things like child care, entertainment and transportation is shifted to housing. The only people who would gain from a swift decontrol are landlords, who could reap immense profits by selling buildings they bought at rent-regulated prices.

Mr. Bruno and Mr. Silver should work with housing experts and city officials to develop a plan for gradual decontrol with a final, certain date at which rent regulations would be eliminated entirely. Negotiations should begin in January. The leaders must avoid the usual scenario in which Mr. Bruno demands the moon. Mr. Silver stonewalls, the state budget becomes months overdue and both sides wait to see who will cave in first.

Several approaches are possible. The first stage of gradual decontrol could include dropping all regulations on units as they become vacant. The plan could also gradually reduce the maximum allowable income for rent-regulated tenants from the present \$250,000 on down. Or it could allow rents to rise by limited amounts each year until they reached market levels. Either way, the time period before final decontrol should be extended from two years to perhaps 10 years. Officials can then monitor the effects of the transition, making adjustments as needed.

Any changes must be made in an atmosphere that keeps the fear of poor New Yorkers constantly in mind. The Senate Republicans have offered to expand protections for the low-income elderly and the disabled. But they have not mentioned the equally pressing problems of poor families with children. Mr. Bruno's confidence that the unregulated marketplace will solve the housing shortage in poor neighborhoods is misplaced. Residents there simply do not have enough money to pay rents that would make unsubsidized housing practical.

So far, the Republicans have not suggested that the state should couple decontrol with more subsidized housing or some other safety net for the substantial number of very poor tenants. That is an issue Mr. Silver must put on the table.

The Dominican Connection

New York City's plan for stationing police investigators in the Dominican Republic caused a stir recently, as fears of American police invading the Dominican streets provoked a backlash among voters and politicians there. But Police Commissioner Howard Safir never intended to place officers in the Dominican streets, as some seemed to think. Instead, Mr. Safir would like to station a pair of officers at the United States Embassy, to develop intelligence on the Dominican-American drug connection.

Such an effort is important, but insufficient to deal with the Dominican nationals who routinely commit crimes in the United States and then fly home to impunity. American law enforcement officials are right to want changes in Dominican laws that forbid the extradition of Dominican citizens. But given the volatility of Dominican politics, Americans need to proceed tactfully, lest they undermine the ability of President Leonel Fernández Reyna to produce the result they seek.

Last month, Mr. Safir furnished Dominican officials with a list of more than 100 people suspected of committing crimes in New York and escaping to the Dominican Republic. The Dominican Republic

should not want to shelter these suspects from American justice. Nearly all Dominican immigrants come to the United States, and most of them settle in the New York area.

High on the list of fugitives is Santiago Luis Polanco-Rodríguez, an alleged drug dealer from Washington Heights who fled the United States 10 years ago after being indicted for drug trafficking, racketeering and money laundering. Drug enforcement officials describe Mr. Polanco-Rodríguez as a pioneer in the mass marketing of crack and say his operation was a prototype for other Dominican drug gangs. Mr. Polanco-Rodríguez is living openly and well in the Dominican Republic.

The Dominican Republic should allow these criminals to be extradited to the United States. But President Fernández has other battles to fight at the moment. A reformer elected earlier this year after a long period of authoritarian rule, Mr. Fernández is engaged in a struggle to clean up a notoriously corrupt Government and consolidate his meager support in the Dominican Congress. The United States is right to seek extradition privileges, but it will need to be patient while Mr. Fernández gets a grip on domestic problems.

If It Walks and Talks Like Inflation, It's Inflation

To the Editor:

Your Dec. 5 editorial "A New Way to Look at Prices" says a Government commission of outside economists has reported that the Consumer Price Index, as now calculated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, exaggerates inflation because it takes inadequate account of consumers off-setting some of the impact of higher prices by switching to lower-priced goods. The underlying assumption is that when consumers are forced by inflation to switch to lower-priced goods their standard of living remains the same. Rubbish!

If a consumer must substitute a generic brand of cereal for a name brand that he likes more, his standard of living has gone down. If she must

rent a video instead of going to a movie, her standard of living has gone down. If he must eat chicken when he prefers beef, his standard of living has gone down. Only Government "newspeak" can tell us that this is not inflation. FRANK BRAULT West Hartford, Conn., Dec. 5, 1996

reau of Labor Statistics, that find a smaller distortion.

The Boskin Commission is composed of five economists who believed the index was too high before they were appointed. They have presented little new empirical research to support their claims.

There are influential vested interests eager to encourage such views. Congress would like nothing more than to find a way to justify reductions in the cost-of-living allowance to solve the eventual Social Security financing deficit. And surely the Clinton Administration would like to contend that the economy really grew rapidly under its watch.

But consider how unlikely this is. Incorporating two Federal Reserve economists' contentions that productivity grew half a percent faster a year than reported with these lower estimates of inflation will lead many to assume that real growth has soared since 1973 at a rate of 4 percent or more, as fast or faster than the growth during the "golden age" between 1948 and 1973. Does anyone really believe that? No.

Analyses of overstated inflation are more subjective than economists imply. More research is required. And it may turn out, as some economists believe, that the Consumer Price Index is hardly overstated at all.

JEFFREY MADRICK New York, Dec. 3, 1996

Who Gains?

To the Editor:

Your Dec. 1 news article and Week in Review article on the overstatement of consumer price inflation do not adequately take into account other analyses of the Consumer Price Index, including those by the Congressional Budget Office and the Bu-

Accepting Fat Isn't a License to Gorge

To the Editor:

I thought that your Dec. 1 Week in Review article "The Fat-Enabling Culture" mixed up a few issues.

For society to be accepting of overweight people is not the same as everyone saying, "Let's eat till we burst."

What a wonderful day it will be when comedians like David Letterman stop telling fat jokes (even if they are about Rush Limbaugh) and onlookers stop tsk-tsking at the sight of a hefty person enjoying an ice cream cone.

That fashion magazines have noticed that some women weigh more than 110 pounds, that they wear clothes and that they — gasp! — can even look attractive strikes me as enlightened, not "enabling." It certainly doesn't mean that I intend to throw away my health club membership, stop walking to work and eat



Eliza Grant

even more four-ounce muffins than I already do. MARY LYN MAISCOTT New York, Dec. 2, 1996

Holocaust and the Enduring Need to Remember

To the Editor:

Peter Schneider's Dec. 5 Op-Ed article bemoaning Americans' perceived stereotyping of Germans and fixation on the 12-year period in German history in which the Holocaust took place simply underscores the need to remember. Mr. Schneider's position is that it is time to concentrate on the more civilized achievements of the German people and that, if we are to remember anything about that dark period, it should be the 10,000 Germans who risked their personal safety to protect Jews.

Fifty years is an awfully short time for the world to absorb, let alone forget, such an enormous evil. And if we are to argue numbers, then against Mr. Schneider's 10,000 decent Germans let us juxtapose the 11 million Jewish and 600,000 Jewish victims of the Nazis who would gladly accept a lifetime of what Mr. Schneider experienced in America in exchange for even a day of what they endured during the 12 years he urges us to forget. FRANK J. DYER Mootclair, N.J., Dec. 5, 1996

in perspective on national television by saying that "we have had a renaissance of reflection because of Goldhagen."

There is no contradiction between explaining how the powerful anti-Semitism that once existed in Germany led so many ordinary Germans willingly to brutalize and kill Jews and maintaining that the vast majority of Germans today do not share the same views. Most Germans alive today have been educated and brought up on democratic values. Everyone should recognize and applaud this. DANIEL GOLDBEAGEN Cambridge, Mass., Dec. 5, 1996

To the Editor: "For Germans: Guilt Is Not Enough" (Op-Ed, Dec. 5): The Holocaust must be memorialized not as a German phenomenon but as an example of the human race's weakness for self-abandonment through blood rites. To attribute this horror to a one people is to avoid looking into the innermost recesses of our own hearts. Rwanda and Bosnia are just two current examples of how entire nations can go mad. STUART WALZER Carmel, Calif., Dec. 5, 1996

To the Editor: Peter Schneider's Dec. 5 Op-Ed article gives the impression that Daniel Goldhagen's book deals only with the 12 years of Germany's Nazi madness. It doesn't! It reviews 200 years of German anti-Semitism. I know many Germans of outstanding humanity, but the few do not change the many. EDWIN S. JAMES Rock Hill, S.C., Dec. 5, 1996

To the Editor: Peter Schneider's Dec. 5 Op-Ed article reminds us that today's Germans are no different from us, no more guilty of genocide than we as Americans are guilty of slavery or killing native Americans.

Also on Dec. 5, you report on Serge Klarsfeld's book of photographs of French Jewish children who were transported to German killing fields. While we must accept what Mr. Klarsfeld says to avoid victimizing the German youth of today, Mr. Klarsfeld's book reminds us that we cannot forget the victims of the past. CAROLYN MCGRATH Setauket, L.I., Dec. 5, 1996

To the Editor: Perhaps Peter Schneider's self-esteem and Germany's image (Op-Ed, Dec. 5) would improve if Germans focused on the minority groups living in Germany. It's legal there, and common, to read in housing advertisements, "foreigners not wanted." As common as help-wanted ads that say "foreigners need not apply," Germans could address their guilt by outlawing these Jim Crow practices. SAMEER SACHDEVA Washington, Dec. 5, 1996

Carville in Retreat

To the Editor:

Re your Dec. 5 editorial "Mr. Carville Calms Down:" Ever since the political strategist James Carville announced his plan, now abandoned, to create an advertising campaign against Kenneth W. Starr, the White-water special prosecutor, I have wondered who was paying Mr. Carville to take on this issue and spend all this money. The answer may be "no body." That may also be the true explanation why this hired gun is leaving town without another notch in his pistol grip. SHELDON SLOAN Los Angeles, Dec. 5, 1996

The writer is president of the Los Angeles County Bar Association.

The Times welcomes letters from readers. Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. Those selected may be shortened for space reasons. Fax letters to (212) 556-3622 or send by electronic mail to letters@nytimes.com, or by regular mail to Letters to the Editor, The New York Times, 229 West 43d Street, New York, N.Y. 10036-3959.

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At Last, The South Loses Well!

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At Last, The South Loses Well

By Allan Gurganus

The novelist Walker Percy was often asked why so many darkly comic writers of genius arose from the American South. He answered, "Because we lost." Then he laughed, with a shaman's economy and a cracker's certainty. In three elegant words, Percy named the region's greatest shame and its uncanny secret power: our habit of anticipating defeat while never accepting it.

Trust me. The South is no place for beginners. Its power of denial can turn a lost war into a vibrant, necessary form of national chic. That same knack has also given us a dreadful reputation.

The virulent Rebel spirit still flies — unsubtle as a flag run up a pole — over South Carolina's Statehouse. Literally, this Confederate battle flag was first raised to commemorate the Civil War's centennial 34 years back. Until now, nobody has found the nerve or the vision to simply yank it down.

And why? The answer is aptly perverse: "Because we lost," the flag must remain. That is, until now.



Sigmund Freud might have been practicing in Atlanta — practicing on Atlanta — when he announced:

"We overcame the transference by pointing out to the patient that his feelings do not arise from the present situation... but they are repeating something that happened to him earlier. In this way, we oblige him to transform his repetition into memory."

These days, those memories are saleable, exportable. Shiloh is picturesque, touristic. The President and Vice President? An Arkansas and a Tennessee. Buried Atlanta now plays host to the Fortune 500.

Having once fought hard for a divorce from the United States, having been outgassed, outlawed, burned flat, then almonied near to death, we Southerners were left with little more than our lore. To that, at least, we held on tight. For a century, memory was all we had to sell.



Picture Charleston's Magnolia Cemetery on Confederate Memorial Day, 1871. Pretty dresses, gray uniforms, all the crutches. To a crowd of 6,000, the Rev. John L. Girardeau gave a speech. He might have been speaking about the worries of present-day African-Americans or Israelis or Palestinians.

"Let us cling to our identity as a people! The danger is upon us of losing it — of its being absorbed and swallowed up in that of a people which, having despoiled us of the rights of freemen, assumes to do our thinking, our legislating, and our ruling for us. Influences are operating on us with every breath we draw which, if we be not vigilant, will sooner or later wipe out every distinctive characteristic which has hitherto marked us. Are we prepared for it? ... Nothing of the past will be left to the South but a history which will read like an elegiac poem, nothing for the present but a place on the maps which our children study... a single existence, a geographical one. But can we preserve our identity in the face of the difficulties which oppose it?"

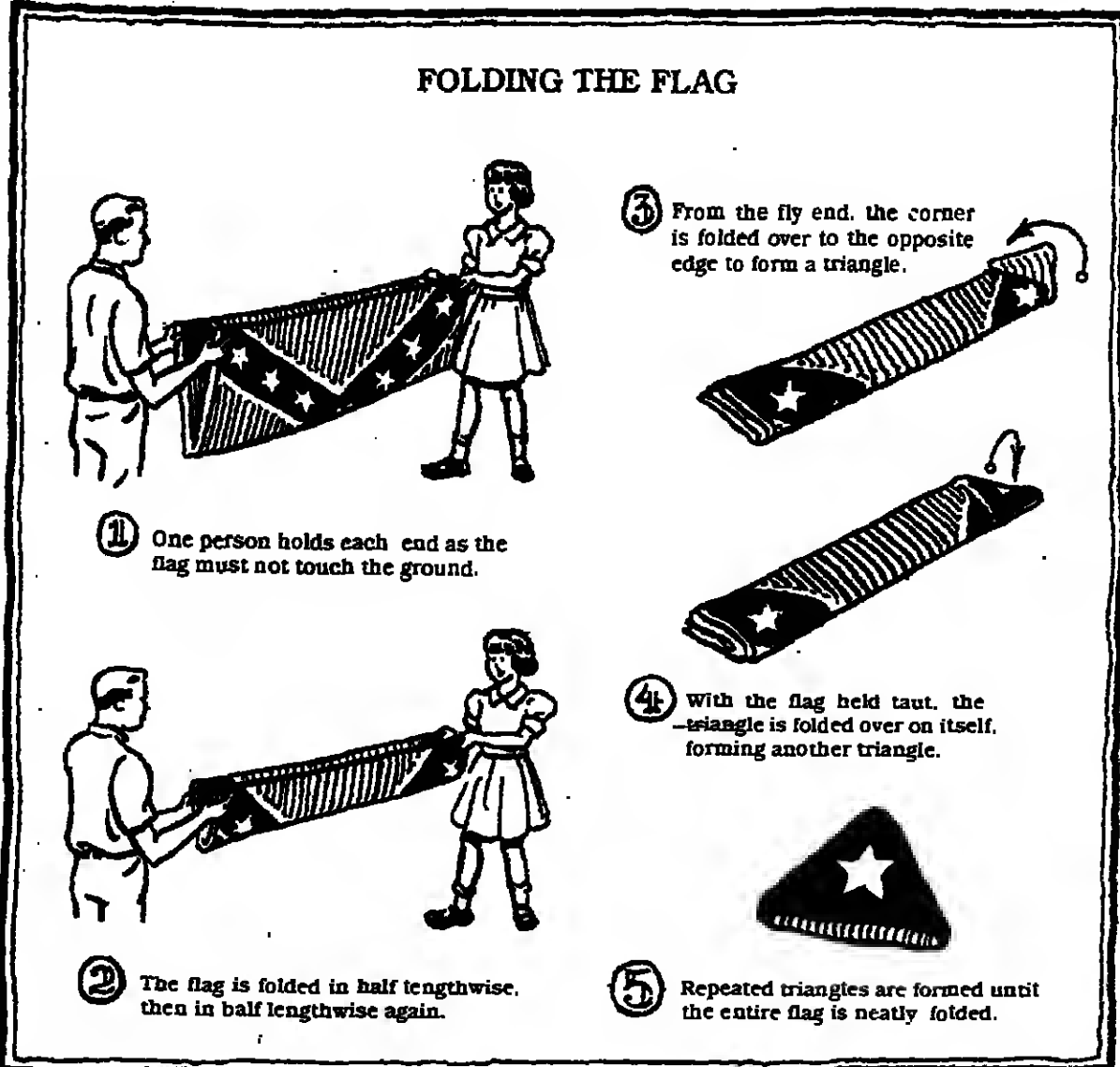
The Reverend need not have worried so. Though South Carolina might look somewhat like Ohio, it is still confoundedly South Carolina. For better and for worse. Fifteen years ago, we were told the Southern accent would disappear. Tain't so!

The North sent us carpetbaggers; we sent them chef Paul Prudhomme on a golf cart. Guess who made the bigger dent? Today black professionals are returning en masse to the South. These days country music is not just played at Nashville barn dances. The region that gave birth to both jazz and the blues is at last — thanks to Junior Chambers of Commerce — considered jazzy, bluesy, sexy. Rather than blandify our food to match the occupying force's, we've lent our spice to the Yankee blash. And at a pretty good markup.

But certain rankling emblems remain, symbols of the Bad Old South and not the Good New Gourmet One.

In 1962, South Carolina rehoisted the Confederate battle flag over its Statehouse. The thing is still snapping there. The trouble with raising such a pennant: Once it's up there, you can't exactly pull it down unnoticed. If you raise a war flag in a time of peace, the rules of war will always govern it — even 121 years after you

Allan Gurganus is the author of "Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All," "White People" and the forthcoming "Plays Well With Others."



lost the bloody war. And there's the bind.

Enter Gov. David Beasley. He is a young Republican just two years into his first term. When elected, he favored the battle flag's presence. Three-fourths of all registered Republicans wanted the colors to fly forever. But South Carolina is now reeling from a series of especially ugly racist crimes, including church torchings and a drive-by shooting at a black nightclub. Daily Statehouse protesters claim that the flag sanctions such racial violence, a tacit "yes" to the Klan and deranged militia groups.

After hard grappling with the issue, Governor Beasley called a news conference televised, statewide. He announced that the last government-flown Confederate flag should finally come down. Though the forces of tradition still claim the symbol as theirs, Governor Beasley admits the forces of hatred have co-opted it. The Governor has done a real service to the South: He has given it a final chance to rise — and this time, from a Reconstruction of its own making.

The resulting furor now reads like Southern fiction at its ethics-based, glandular and atmospheric best. Business interests fear canceled conventions if the flag waves on. Senator Strom Thurmond, born just 34 years after the War ended, favors purging this symbol. The Sons and Daughters of the Confederacy ride clouds of 19th-century rhetoric — "blood" its operative metaphor. The African-American community opposes any display of the flag. For narrative suspense, the State Legislature has still not voted on the proposal.

There are intelligent people who believe the flag should stay in place.

Remember what Robert E. Lee said, leaving the field of battle: 'Furl the flag, boys.'

Their credibility is undercut by two leading Republican gubernatorial hopefuls who insist: The flag is a symbol of honor. It never burned a church. The battle flag has nothing to do with slavery.

Such citizens' homework for tonight should be the reading of a little item called the "Declaration of the Immediate Causes which Induce and justify the Secession of South Carolina from the Federal Union." The words "slave" and "slavery" slather through it.

One sentence condemning the North reads: "They have encouraged and assisted thousands of our slaves to leave their homes; and those who remain have been incited by emissaries, books and pictures to servile insurrection."

The condescension dripping from "books and pictures" is enough to freeze any heart. As usual, those Republicans quickest to use History as their battle cry seem to have read very little of it lately.



Governor Beasley, in striking the colors "because we lost," offers a clean gesture, brave and, not incidentally, career-making.

I phoned my most knowing friends in Charleston (very knowing, indeed). They tell me that, for Governor Beasley, symbolic shifts with prevailing winds are nothing new. He blew into office as a (literally) flag-waving Republican governor. Yet he is a former Democrat. A boy

from Society Hill, he converted to evangelical Christianity, then to the Christian Coalition, just in time to ride the botched Gingrich Revolution. (Newt Gingrich, for the record, is a Pennsylvanian who moved clear to Georgia to get elected, which explains a lot.)

Whatever Governor Beasley's motives, his battle-flag conversion offers our region a belated crack at doing something right. The South has a chance at last to lose the war correctly.

To finally admit: We've noticed that we lost!

Everybody loses something. A ball game, a wristwatch, a spouse, a child — eventually, a life. The healthiest among us are those folks able — through some mythic algebra that can never be explained — to upgrade defeat into an acceptance that itself becomes a form of honor. Shakespeare speaks of turning defeat into perfection. But, flying the flag of the losing side blocks just such healthy personal present-tense mythologizing. Where are the new emblems of a New South?

Our region has finally offered itself a chance at visible dignity. Not just economic comeuppance, but a lunge at self-criticism — the first step toward affectionate self-acceptance, and a unity postponed.



The Governor suggests the flag now be flown only over a Civil War museum on the Statehouse grounds. This would give a context to the martial emblem of a lost cause. But African-Americans protest its display there. They would forbid the colors' presence, even as a reminder of an emancipating war.

"Let us forget" becomes "let us remember." Amnesia is no cure for the pain of Southern history — white or black amnesia.

Confucius claims that one purpose of poetry is to teach the names of birds and plants to a nation's children. Monuments and flags serve as aids to train our young about their past. The battle flag enthusiasts need reminding: Only the winning side gets to fly its symbol over seats of legislation financed by taxpayers of all races. Conversely, is it not risky for black Southerners to erase from view the very emblem of crimes that cannot be addressed too often?

Absolutist thinking — balkanizing both sides — is the New Secessionism. Been there, folks. Done that.

The New Secessionism places ethnic identification above national purpose, group grievance over human commonality. Correct me, but isn't that why the Civil War was fought? Isn't that why all thinking people understand: The right side won?

Brothers, sisters? The Civil War belongs, at last, not on our streets, but, please, in museums.



Six months after the South lost, Gen. Robert E. Lee wrote Gen. P. G. T. Beauregard, commending him for not fleeing the Union as many others had. Lee, I am told, is still discredited north of, say, Maryland. But in this letter he embodies all that I love about an enlightened, forthright, humble, morally imaginative, self-correcting and therefore eternally necessary South:

"After the surrender of the Southern armies... it became in my opinion the duty of every citizen to cease opposition and place himself in a position to serve the country."

"... I need not tell you that true patriotism sometimes requires of men to act contrary at one period to that which it does at another, and the motive that impels them — the de-

sire to do right — is precisely the same."

Shall we run that up our only flagpole? May I see a show of hands? State by state, race by race, we cannot succeed by seceding. Done that. Lost out. Started over.

Maybe our feelings do not arise from the present situation but keep repeating something that happened to us earlier. And happened, and happened.

So, South Carolina? Make the repetition a memory. Heed the orders of General Lee. On retiring from the field of battle, brave enough to weep in plain view of his men, admitting defeat while somehow maintaining his own indelible sense of human honor, he called back, "Furl the flag, boys."

It is time. One hundred and twenty-one years late, my beloved South, it is time to say and mean this:

Let us all hold hands and, in unison, shout it very loud at last, "Appomattox. Appomattox. Appomattox."

Foreign Affairs

THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

Big Mac I

OAK BROOK, Ill.

So I've had this thesis for a long time and came here to Hamburger University at McDonald's headquarters to finally test it out. The thesis is this: No two countries that both have a McDonald's have ever fought a war against each other.

The McDonald's folks confirmed it for me. I feared the exception would be the Falklands war, but Argentina didn't get its first McDonald's until 1996, four years after that war with Britain. Civil wars don't count: McDonald's in Moscow delivered burgers to both sides in the fight between pro and anti-Yeltsin forces in 1993.

Since Israel now has a kosher McDonald's, since Saudi Arabia's McDonald's closes five times a day for Muslim prayer, since Egypt has 18 McDonald's and Jordan is getting its first, the chances of a war between them are minimal. But watch out for that Syrian front. There are no Big Macs served in Damascus, India-Pakistan? I'm still worried. India, where 40 percent of the population is vegetarian, just opened the first beefless McDonald's (vegetable nuggets!), but Pakistan is still a Mac-free zone.

Obviously, I say all this tongue in cheek. But there was enough of a correlation for me to ask James Cantalupo, president of McDonald's International and its de facto Secretary of State, what might be behind this Golden Arches Theory of Conflict Prevention — which stipulates that when a country reaches a certain level of economic development, when it has a middle class big enough to support a McDonald's, it becomes a McDonald's country; and people in McDonald's countries don't like to fight wars; they like to wait in line for burgers. Or as Mr. Cantalupo puts it: "We focus our development on the more well-developed economies — those that are growing and those that are large — and the risks involved in being adventurous [for those growing economies] are probably getting too great."

In the 1950's and 60's developing countries thought that having an aluminum factory and a U.N. seat was what made them real countries, but today many countries think they will have arrived only if they have their own McDonald's and Windows 95 in their own language. This year McDonald's went into its 100th country and for the first time it earned more revenue from McDonald's overseas than from McDonald's America.

Said Mr. Cantalupo: "I feel these countries want McDonald's as a symbol of something — an economic maturity and that they are open to foreign investments. I don't think there is a country out there we haven't gotten inquiries from. I have a parade of ambassadors and trade representatives in here regularly to tell us about their country and why McDonald's would be good for the country."

The question raised by the McDonald's example is whether there is a tipping

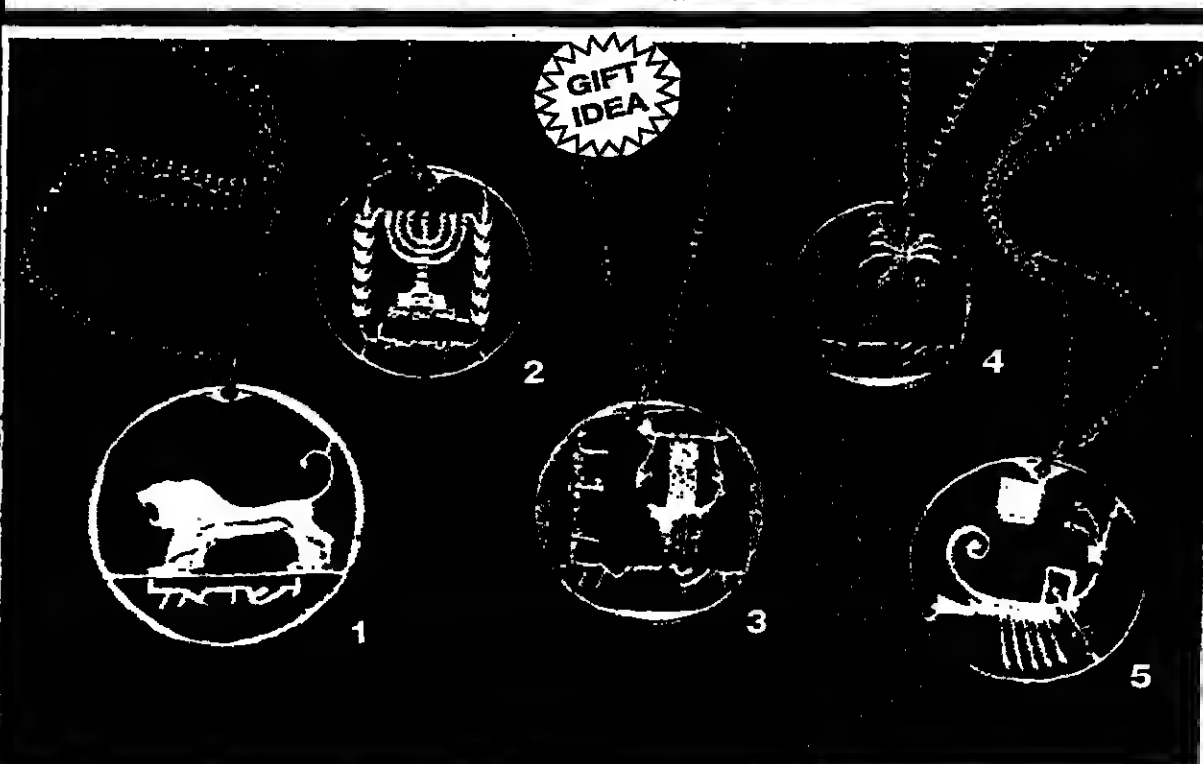
Testing the golden arches theory.

point at which a country, by integrating with the global economy, opening itself up to foreign investment and empowering its consumers, permanently restricts its capacity for troublemaking and promotes gradual democratization and widening peace. Francis Fukuyama, author of the classic work "The End of History," argued to me that a country's getting its own McDonald's was probably not a good indicator of that tip-over point, because the level of per capita income needed in a country to host a McDonald's is too low. "I would not be surprised if in the next 10 years several of these McDonald's countries go to war with each other," he said.

Yes, there will be conflicts, but more inside countries than between them. No question, the spread of McDonald's (a new one opens every three hours) is part of this worldwide phenomenon of countries integrating with the global economy and submitting to its rules, but this is not a smooth linear process. It produces a backlash inside countries from those who do not benefit from this globalization, who feel that their traditional culture will be steamrolled by it and who fear that they won't eat the Big Mac, the Big Mac will eat them.

How well governments and global companies manage these frustrations will be the real determinant of whether economic development will lead to wider democratization and wider peace. Here again McDonald's is an intriguing pioneer. When the riots broke out in Los Angeles one of the few commercial buildings not trashed was McDonald's. Wednesday's column will explore why.

Historical Creations



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MUSIC

Once Proud Classical Music Industry Fends Off Extinction

By ALLAN KOZINN

LIKE the gods in Wagner's "Ring" cycle, the producers who ran the big classical record labels in the 1950's created their own Valhalla, a shimmering fortress in the musical heavens, fit for the heroes of song and stage — the Callases, Heifetzes, Horowitzes and Toscaninis — and built with treasure wrested from their pop divisions. It was generally agreed, back then, that this arrangement preserved something crucial in Western civilization. But by the 1970's, when the fortunes of pop labels dwarfed those of the classics, a generation of number crunchers had seized the corporate reins.

"You can keep your castle," they told their classical executives, "but you're responsible for its upkeep." The classical record world has not adapted well to this drastic change of circumstances. During the 1980's, the business enjoyed a windfall with the transition from LP to CD, when collectors bought their favorites anew; but instead of regarding this sales jolt as temporary, the labels flooded the market with reissues while expanding their current rosters, recording budgets and release lists. When sales for the entire industry slumped this year, the classics lines were like dinosaurs, lumbering under their own weight. And having watched the classical share of the market plunge from 7 percent in 1987 to an all-time low of 2.5 percent this year, classics executives are desperately trying to reinvent the business.

They are dropping orchestras and encouraging soloists to propose crossover projects. Jazz musicians with a spin on the classics are being courted. New Age and world music are joining the product mix, and executives whose predecessors battled over divas and maestros are now bidding for the soundtracks to everything from "Immortal Beloved" to "Braveheart."

"For pure classical music, it's not a pretty picture," said Cor Dubois, the president of BMG Classics.

Under pressure to turn profits, classical label heads have few allies. Consumers, rebelling against \$17 CD prices and bored with the interpretive facelessness of many current artists, are ignoring new releases by all but a few superstars. Hefty performers' fees, especially those of American orchestras, make it impossible to recoup production costs even at those prices, an issue highlighted by the recent strike of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Retailers, responding to the stagnating market, are reducing their stocks. And classical radio stations, having adopted a wallpaper format that precludes vocal music and new music, ignore the few hot sellers: "The Three Tenors," Cecilia Bartoli and works by Arvo Part and other post-Minimalists; it is as if top-40 stations in the mid-60's had decided that they would play only Wayne Newton and Perry Como records.

In a business in which sales of 5,000 record copies were long considered respectable, fluke hits like "The Three Tenors" and "Chant" have sold in the millions worldwide, leaving executives hungry for more. But sequels, remakes and coattail riders are less successful. Harebrained gambits like "Symphonic Rolling Stones" and "Symphonic Elvis" have fared poorly, although marketers say that compilations like "Classical Music for Dummies" and "Idiot's Guide to Classical Music" have a large constituency.

There are hopeful signs. Several labels are courting young composers like Aaron Jay Kernis and Richard Danielpour. And carefully remastered reissues of legendary recordings continue to pour from the vaults. But there the good news mostly ends.

Traditionally, the main business of classical labels has been the recording of the standard repertoire, and here they are taking a dreadful beating.

"When I look at the business, I see overproduction, oversupply and a decreasing demand," said Mr. Dubois of BMG. "We have to reduce the quantity of recordings we release. It is virtually impossible to manage a tremendous number of new recordings in a professional way, giving every one the attention it deserves."

In recent months, producers at virtually every major label have scrutinized their lists, eliminating projects unlikely to earn back investments and trimming programs anywhere from 20 to 70 percent. Executives deny using a uniform benchmark, but insiders at several companies say that recordings likely to sell fewer than 50,000 copies in their first year are doomed.

American orchestras have been especially hard hit in the reconfiguration. Current union rates and work rules make the cost of recording symphonic works in the United States 60 percent higher than in London.

A look at a current Sony Classical project, an album of John Williams film music with the violinist Itzhak Perlman, shows how American ensembles have priced themselves out of the market. The recording was to be made in London, in four three-hour sessions. When a Sony executive remembered that the company owed the Pittsburgh Symphony a fee

for canceled sessions, the company planned to move the recording there.

Then someone did the math. British union contracts require two 10-minute breaks in each three-hour session, leaving 10 hours 40 minutes of recording time. American contracts, which require three 20-minute breaks, whittled the recording time to 8 hours. When that proved unacceptable to Mr. Perlman, Sony chose London rather than pay for an extra session in Pittsburgh.

Of the traditional Big Five American orchestras, the New York Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony and the Cleveland Orchestra currently have recording contracts, although Decca/London has cut Cleveland's project list in half since 1991. The Boston Symphony has had no label for several years, and the Philadelphia Orchestra lost its contract with EMI in August.

Orchestras like the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the San Francisco Symphony and the National Symphony retain major-label ties, and some smaller orchestras have kept themselves on record by underwriting their session costs.

"We have to be very selective," said Richard Lyttleton, the president of EMI, "and frankly, we cannot justify the additional cost of recording in the United States when there

With drastic changes in the record business, classical labels have failed to adapt and now face dire consequences.

are very fine European orchestras that are attuned to what is happening in the market."

It is easy to see why labels are resisting new recordings of the standard repertoire. Many listeners find most current performers interpretively bland, and with classic recordings by legendary conductors available in pristine CD transfers and at midprice, collectors buy them instead. A reissue of a Herbert von Karajan recording of a Mozart symphony with the Berlin Philharmonic can be expected to sell thousands of copies; a recent Claudio Abbado version with the same band stalled at a mere 200.

"One principle I thought was inviolable," said a Sony executive who spoke on the condition of anonymity, "was that whatever happened in the marketplace, people would be interested in hearing the latest conductors and instrumentalists in the standard repertoire. Now the feeling is exactly the opposite. Standard is the kiss of death."

The conversations executives dread, in fact, are those in which senior conductors ask to record new Beethoven, Brahms or Mahler cycles.

"If that's what they want to do, we'll have a long talk with them," said Mr. Dubois of BMG. "And we'll try to schedule that talk for three or four years from now."

How did the record business arrive at this sorry pass? One view holds that the business has not really changed but that the advent of Soundscan — a computer system that records sales at the cash registers of major chains — has clarified the problems of the market.

"Before Soundscan, you spent \$100,000 recording a Brahms symphony, you spent \$25,000 mounting a promotional campaign, and you shipped 10,000 copies," said Robert Hurwitz, the president of Nonesuch. "Two years later, 7,000 have come back. But the returns are 500 here, 300 there, and you've released another 200 records since the Brahms, so you don't really notice."

"Today, you spend your \$100,000, you mount your campaign, you ship your 10,000 disks, you look at Soundscan, and you see: Week One, 110 copies. Week Two, 86 copies. Week Three, 70 copies. All of a sudden, from the most basic, common-sense business reality, you say: 'Wait a second. Something's wrong.' I think this has always been the case. It's just that now we're hit with cold, hard facts."

One thing those facts suggest is the degree to which the industry overestimated the CD boom. When CD's made their first inroads, a dozen years ago, classical sales were the first to grow. Collectors, assured that digital sound was superior to analog, sought gleaming new recordings of their favorite works. Then, enchanted by the format's indestructibility, they replaced their favorite LP's with CD reissues.

Labels celebrated by expanding their recording programs. Companies like Virgin and the Warner-Elektra-Atlantic group started classical lines. Bertelsmann, the German publishing conglomerate, bought the moribund RCA in 1986, and Sony, the Japanese electronics giant, acquired CBS Masterworks three years later. Retailers like Tower, HMV and Virgin expanded rapidly, and chains that had catered

mainly to pop buyers added classical departments.

Virtually everything customers see in these elegantly appointed departments is paid for by the labels, a new twist that has substantially increased the cost of marketing. Placing a record at a listening post in a big chain runs \$3,500 a month. Special display space is paid for, too. And advertising costs are for the most part no longer shared by retailers.

"We recently had a record that sold 100,000 copies," an executive for a major label said, "and those of us who used to pat ourselves on the back for selling 9,000 were pretty happy. Then the vice president for finance came in and said, 'Yes, but do you know what you spent to sell those 100,000?'"

The new uncertainties of the business are nowhere more evident than in the disarray in the labels' executive offices. At BMG, a decade of explosive activity directed at reviving RCA and acquiring specialty labels proved costlier than Bertelsmann had expected. During the last year, executives have passed through at a startling rate: one director of artists and repertoire lasted only three days.

At Sony Classical, Gunther Breest spent six years establishing a European presence for the company, moving the label's headquarters from New York to Hamburg, Germany, coaxing Deutsche Grammophon artists to defect and, like his BMG colleagues, buying labels with distinct repertory focuses. But he also filled the ledgers with red ink. When he resigned abruptly in 1985, his staff of 80 was fired, and the power shifted back to New York, where Peter Gelb was given responsibility to turn the label around.

The Polygram Classics labels — Deutsche Grammophon, Philips and London — have been adrift in the 90's. In the last year, Christopher Roberts, the president of the division, has sought to give each a distinctive character, stressing London's strength in vocal music and Deutsche Grammophon's traditionalist reputation while redefining Philips as a catchall for film scores and crossovers. But sales lag behind projections, and similar problems at Polygram's pop labels have led to published reports of mass firings and a sale of the record division to its parent, Philips Electronics.

EMI has so far avoided a shakeup. But at Warner Classics, which owns Erato, Teldec, Finlandia and Nonesuch, the marketing department has been merged with that of the Atlantic pop division as part of a larger Warner reorganization.

One company, at least, seems unaffected by the industry downturn. Since 1963, Nonesuch's staff has grown from 3 to 10, its sales have increased twentyfold, and Mr. Hurwitz says the label turns a profit on the 25 disks it releases every year.

The core of its catalogue is new music: the senior Minimalists — Philip Glass, Steve Reich, John Adams and Louis Andriessen — are all under contract, and the label offers the explorations of the Kronos Quartet and occasional free-standing projects like its million-selling recording of Henryk Gorecki's Third Symphony. World music, light jazz, theater songs and soundtracks are also represented, and about 20 percent of the releases are of standard repertoire. With sales of 500,000 copies of the latest Gypsy Kings album balanced against the more modest sales of Richard Goode's Schubert and Mozart disks, Mr. Hurwitz claims an average sale of 80,000 for his 1995 releases.

"I was fortunate," he explained, "in that my mentors and role models — Goddard Lieberson at Columbia, Manfred Eicher at ECM and Bob Kramow at Elektra — preached that if you trust your own instincts, your own ears and your own passions, the public, ideally, will follow. What they did not preach was how to read the charts, see what's selling and go out and copy it."

In a way, Nonesuch has become a template for the larger labels, particularly Sony Classical, the company that is charging the most dramatically. Though it releases 10 times as many disks as Nonesuch and has a higher quotient of crossovers, soundtracks and other projects of questionable durability, Sony has lately stepped up its jazz collaborations and added world music to its catalogue. Most important, it has embraced new music. Disks devoted to Sofia Gubaidulina, György Ligeti, Alfred Schnittke and Peter Lieberson have appeared, and the label has put Mr. Danielpour, Tan Dun and Elliot Goldenthal under contract.

What separates Sony's new-music program from those of other labels is its integration of composers and star performers into a kind of repertory company. Before signing Mr. Danielpour, Mr. Gelb ascertained that Yo-Yo Ma and Emanuel Ax would happily perform and record his concertos. Mr. Ma was also enlisted to play the solo line in Mr. Goldenthal's Vietnam oratorio, "Fire Water Paper," and Sony has commissioned the composer to write a work for Wynton Marsalis.

This new awareness of contemporary music, dawdling at other labels too, may be the hidden salvation in this record-world "Götterdämmer-



Edgar Meyer, left, Yo-Yo Ma and Mark O'Connor are currently at the top of Billboard's classical chart with their crossover album, "Appalachia Waltz," which has sold almost 30,000 copies.

ung," a way of redressing problems of the industry's own making. At long last, 19th-century repertory is being made to stand aside as current composition reasserts itself as a driving force in musical life. And orchestras, if they hope to record,

will also have to give it more attention.

The standard repertory may benefit, too. Many musicians have lamented the homogenizing effect recordings have had on music-making. Perhaps consumers' rejection of cookie-cutter performances will be the kick in the pants that forces performers to find something fresh to say about these works. If that is the case, the classical-record world survives long enough for this rebalancing to take hold.

cookie-cutter performances will be the kick in the pants that forces performers to find something fresh to say about these works. If that is the case, the classical-record world survives long enough for this rebalancing to take hold.

INNER PEACE

By A. J. SANTORA / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

- Title sister of a 1970 film
- 50's pitcher Maglie
- Shelley, for one
- Bodybuilder's intake
- Hydrangea, e.g.
- A Khan
- Further shorten, as a board
- 1982 Tony nominee Mito
- One-one and two-two
- Women's shoe style
- Bridger
- Ends of lines
- Classical earth goddess
- Kind of cracker
- Hamilton's prov.
- Glow
- Those who work
- Given life, perhaps
- See 7-Down
- Contemporary author-illustrator Jon
- Unvarnished
- Roar of a crowd
- Love personified
- React angrily
- Illinois city
- "De — Poetica" (ancient treatise)
- Arles article
- Orchestra member
- Caruso was one
- Feature of James Monroe's estate
- Palindrome egirl
- Lourdes is one
- Coif
- Trauma sites, for short
- Summating areas
- Ran for one's wife?
- November honorees
- Armada component
- Teases
- Quieting down
- Tea follower
- Western Hemisphere abbr.
- team (assault unit)
- Extreme amount
- Bug shots?
- Scale notes
- List in a hurry?
- Stonemenge builder
- All, in stage directions
- Difference
- Sound mind, in a phrase
- Stuck
- Dump
- Pearl player, in a 1996 sitcom
- Shade of red
- Red tag locale
- Alone
- Parade figure
- Indy 500 gear
- Beyond control
- Words with eye or fore

DOWN

- Certain repairman
- Cockpit reading: Abbr.
- Furious
- a time
- Song much played on the radio
- Shaft
- To — (exactly)
- Bake, as eggs
- Betel palm
- Honking time
- Its slogan was once "entertainment"
- Delhi gown
- Long time
- With 43-Across, a 1940's movie cowboy
- Bean and others
- Stop
- Writer Dinesen
- doute (certainly): Fr.
- Prefix with light
- Stuck
- Dump
- Pearl player, in a 1996 sitcom
- Shade of red
- Red tag locale
- Alone
- Parade figure
- Indy 500 gear
- Beyond control
- Words with eye or fore
- Barbary beast
- Off — (occasionally) Abbr.
- Extended
- "— in Calico" (1946 song)
- Saint Philip (Renaissance figure)
- Fashionable shop
- Bag
- Holiday bird
- "Rocket Man" John
- Tractor man John
- Kind of land
- Brothers' name of 40's-50's music
- Monthly synagogue observance
- Lyrical Sammy et al.
- "Pretty stupid, huh?" declarer
- Old Houston hockey team
- Lake Indians
- Raspy
- Addams Family member
- VCR
- Public relations gambit
- Small eggs
- One of fiddlers' Coen brothers
- Certain discriminators
- Daughter of Mnemosyne
- Restrict
- "Women Who Run With the Wolves" author
- French suffix
- Split — strip
- 74 Toast start
- They're a pain
- Looks over
- Rijksmuseum artist
- From Odense
- Standing-room-only show
- Do needlework
- hunch
- Biblical miracle worker
- Hardy a naïf
- Bullets
- Exhort from
- Nautical order
- Bud Grace comic strip
- 95 Connecticut Senator
- Prefix with morph
- 1982 Disney film
- More than a peeve
- In addition
- Old Dodge
- Frost
- Kind of skirt
- Dist. —
- Greek letter
- Marlin's locale: Abbr.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ORARA JAWAY DAVE LEEY
 SOLED ADASH SCAN ARNO
 ALLAR MIXIE CELEBRATE
 EDOE ESE VEALD ISSUE
 EDUADDYUDORANAYALWEIC
 PEL FIR BURK
 NEETSTOICASTYALPOALAD
 ODS TAD GSE KILC
 BYCHANCETBEVYSAPROLES
 SEETO SEA ALUD ICE
 SYENTY BRG CLINT
 OIS ANNA ODS UBTU
 EDUARDVITRITORSUPFORA
 EDIAN HAW DEL LGA
 BEGANSROLESPECIATWRE
 HATE OHS UGA
 THEGRAYSNOJEFENLARE
 STARE DATON KLU OMTA
 STREACIPE PAINE HATA
 LISP OSEA BEER ADTE
 ANTE BASK REEDS STEE

That oily

Environment lacks enforcement

US addresses... re...
 nents... ab... o...

That oily sensation

I've finally figured out why a doughnut is called a "sufganiya." Just took a quick glance in my Hebrew-English dictionary to find that "sufgani" is defined as, no surprise here, absorbent. Given the fact that Hanukkah is a holiday celebrating the miraculous aspects of oil, an absorbent treat is only fitting. The problem that arises is that most doughnut bakers treat the absorbency challenge as a commandment rather than a concept, resulting in rather leaden rounds of fried dough.

As a general rule, those are the doughnuts that one finds in every kiosk, corner store, and bakery at this time of year. It requires a bit of resourcefulness and research to seek out the unique doughnuts in Jerusalem, as well as the willingness to taste-test a series of the jelly-filled treats. "A great doughnut is light, not heavy, without oil dripping on the outside," explains Shalom Kadosh, head chef at the Sheraton Plaza. "Inside the filling should be interesting, not just average, and on top, something fun like chocolate or mocha icing. It also needs to be served at room temperature, never cold because then it loses its taste."

Kadosh is also serious about his oil. He uses a regular vegetable oil for frying the doughnuts, but his secret is that he adds brandy to the batter to counteract the oil, pushing it away from the cake surface. At the Plaza's patisserie they also add lemon and orange zest to the batter as another ingredient to counteract the oil.

Jack Elkayam, the Plaza's pastry

JESSICA STEINBERG

chef, demonstrated the approximately two-hour doughnut baking procedure, starting with the dough mixture and rising process, and ending with the frying, filling and topping techniques. The result is a light, slightly chewy consistency, surrounding a somewhat stingy but rich strawberry filling. Elkayam comments that this traditional Ashkenazi treat is too sweet for him; he prefers his wife's doughnuts - Moroccan doughnuts with a hole, that are less sugary and dipped in honey or whipped egg whites and then again in crushed almonds.

The Plaza's doughnuts are a bit steep at \$2.50, unless you're a guest at the hotel and get to eat them each evening at candlelighting time. If you're looking for a more affordable doughnut, your best bet is Marzipan at Mahaneh Yehuda, on Agrippas Street. Owned by the Ozarko family, this bakery is known for its cinnamon rolls and rogelach, but they also sell a caramel-filled doughnut that is superior to many of its counterparts. Izik Ozarko, one of the Marzipan sons working behind the counter, wouldn't reveal the family's secret recipe, but did say that they use eggs as their base, creating a soft, tasty dough that stays fresh for two to three days. Marzipan's doughnut is more oily than the Plaza's brandy-lemon zested variety, but it's also a better bargain at NIS 2 for jelly-filled, NIS 2.50 for caramel-filled.

Just up the block is another opportunity for doughnut sam-

pling, Bonkers Bagels. It's their first year making doughnuts and they're using a recipe with four types of extracts: butter, lemon, vanilla and rum. Filling-wise, it's a typical Bonkers flavor fest, with strawberry, caramel and blueberry, as a slight departure from the regulars. Their doughnuts are on the large side, leaving the expected oil marks on fingers and napkins, but they're generous with the filling and the blueberry is a nice change of pace. Their prices are on par with the bagels, NIS 2.50 for strawberry and blueberry, NIS 3 for caramel.

This wouldn't be a story about doughnuts if it didn't mention the new kid on the block, Dunkin' Donuts. Fresh from the US, with one branch on Ibn Gvirol Street in Tel Aviv and another in Ramat Gan, a third will soon open in Jerusalem.

Chaim Schockett, Dunkin' Donuts operations manager, says that the hordes of Israelis flocking to the store tend to favor three flavors: sugar-coated, jelly-filled and chocolate covered.

The Dunkin' Donuts doughnut is the sweetest of those surveyed, and they win hands down for their generous dollop of jelly that oozes out of the doughnut with each bite. In honor of Hanukkah, the store has introduced the new buttercream maple-flavored donut, at NIS 3 each.

The company imports most of its baking ingredients from the company's storehouses. All flour mixes are imported, as the local product is unbleached. The oil, too, is imported.

While Schockett won't disclose



Time to eat the doughnuts! There are all kinds of fillings and flavors this year, from rum-based to blueberry-filled to mocha-topped. (Ariel Jeroliminski)

the mixture of oil used for frying the balls of dough, he did say that they use a combination of vegetable oils, with a low absorbing rate and low moisture level.

Therefore, any miracles relating to the volume of doughnuts being sold are not related to the oil in which they are fried. What is miraculous though, is the sheer

number of doughnuts consumed in this country during the eight days of Hanukkah. Between the four stores mentioned here, approximately 75,000

doughnuts will be made over the course of the holiday. When I mentioned that to Izik Ozarko, he nodded his head and told me, "Time to make the doughnuts."

Environmental law lacks enforcement

EARTHLY CONCERNS
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

ISRAEL has some very effective, even, some say, enviable environmental laws. The problem is, and has always been, one of enforcement. All too often the law has been ignored in favor of the practicalities of day-to-day existence. But this is changing, and nothing could better express this change than the ratification by a Haifa court, a couple of weeks ago, of an agreement between the non-governmental environmental action group, the Israel Union for Environmental Defense (UED), and Haifa Chemicals, putting an end to a three-year court battle wherein the UED actually brought criminal charges, under the existing laws, against Haifa Chemicals and several of their directors individually.

This was a landmark agreement, and so such agreement has ever been formerly reached in Israel between a blatant polluting agent and an environmentally active group. For Haifa Chemicals, a company that annually dumps 1.5 million tons of untreated effluents into the river and the bay, has seen the light of the new era and decided, in an abrupt turnaround, to amend its ways. According to the agreement signed by UED counsel Dan Fisch and Orin Marom, and counter-signed by Haifa Chemicals counsel Michael Zellermeier and Eli Meytal, Haifa Chemicals agrees to the following conditions:

- Haifa Chemicals will immediately

begin the implementation of technological solutions to their ongoing pollution according to an agreed and stipulated schedule.

- Heavy fines will be imposed by the court should the company defect or lag behind the agreed schedule.

- Haifa Chemicals will pay NIS 750,000 in damages to the local authorities and will set up an ongoing trust fund that will finance further environmental action in the Haifa bay area.

In exchange, the UED and the Public Prosecutor will cancel the criminal actions against Haifa Chemicals and the directors. This is the largest single fine ever levied against an Israeli polluter and serves as a landmark.

What is unclear is why, in the view of the importance of this decision, even though a press release recorded all the events, not one single newspaper, television station or radio news broadcast even mentioned the matter. Is the environment really so insignificant, not only to the public but to the media? Do we really live in a place where what would be an earth-shaking decision in any enlightened country is ignored? Maybe so. The one thing I do know is that Israel has good and valid environmental laws and the only problem is that they are not enforced. I can only take my hat off to the UED, and to Econet Israel who helped them to get started. It was high time someone reacted to these problems.

Supreme Court confirms validity of kashrut law

In the Supreme Court, sitting as a High Court of Justice, before the President Justice Aharon Barak, the Deputy-President Justice Shlomo Levin, and Justices Eliezer Goldberg, Theodore Orr, Michael Cheshin, Yitzhak Zamir, Tova Sternberg-Cohen, Zvi Tal, and Dalia Dorner, in the matter of *Meatreal Ltd. and others, petitioners, versus The Knesset and others, respondents (H.C.4676/94)*.

THE petitioners are importers and dealers in meat products on a large scale. The Import of Frozen Meat Law of 1994 forbade, subject to certain exceptions, the import of meat without a kashrut certificate. In a 1995 amendment (after the petition was filed), the definition of "meat" was extended to include all kinds of meat and meat products fit for human consumption, including poultry, and the name of the Law was changed to The Meat and Meat Products Law of 1994. The petitioners, submitting that the Law would seriously affect their business, petitioned the Supreme Court, sitting as a High Court of Justice, to declare it invalid on the grounds that it offended against the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation, of 1994, and the Basic Law: The Dignity and Freedom of Man, of 1992.

JUSTICE BARAK, delivering the court's judgment, first cited, *inter alia*, government decisions of September 8, 1992, and August 8, 1993, and several precedents - H.C.2015, 1775/93, 7198/93, and 3872/93 (The Jerusalem Post of November 8, 1993), which preceded the 1994 Law now attacked.

He then turned to the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation, first passed on July 17, 1991. However, for various reasons which he explained, it was repealed, and a new Law was adopted on March 9, 1994.

Section 1 of the 1994 Law, he said, provides that "fundamental human rights in Israel are founded upon recognition of the value of the human being, the sanctity of human life, and the principle that all persons are free: these rights

shall be upheld in the spirit of the principles set forth in the declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel."

That Law, he continued, repeated section 4 of the original Law under which freedom of occupation may be violated only by a Law befitting the values of the State of Israel, enacted for a proper purpose, and in which the violation is no greater than is required.

However, it also added a new section 8 which, while permitting a divergent Law, lays down, *inter alia*, that a provision of any Law which infringes on freedom of occupation shall be valid, even though not in accordance with section 4, if it has been passed by a majority of the members of the Knesset, and states expressly that it is operative in spite of the Basic Law even if it does not conform to section 4.

He also pointed out that the 1995 amendment to the Meat Law was passed by a majority of the Knesset, and contained an express provision (section 5) that it was valid notwithstanding the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation.

The petitioners, he continued, submitted that the Meat Law violated both sections 1 and 4 of the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation. It infringed upon the freedoms of religion and conscience, equality, and property. It did not serve a proper purpose, and it went too far. It had ruined their businesses without any compensation. They also argued that section 8, permitting a divergent Law, was only intended to solve various tem-

LAW REPORT
ASHER FELIX LANDAU

porary problems, and could not be invoked to destroy the whole fabric of freedom of occupation.

They also submitted that the Meat Law offended against the Basic Law: The Dignity and Freedom of Man, of 1992, in infringing upon the basic freedoms stated above.

The President then noted that the constitutional scheme now considered was based upon the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Citing several authorities, including the Clal case (H.C.728/94), he pointed out that the object of the relevant provisions was to enable the legislature to fulfill its social and political aspirations, even if they conflicted with section 4 above.

He then emphasized that the meat Law, if at all, only sanctioned violations of the fundamental principles in the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation. It could not be used to destroy that freedom, a result which could only be achieved by repealing the Basic Law itself. Citing the cases of Yeridor (E.P.1765) and the Le'or Movement (H.C.42/89 - The Jerusalem Post Law Reports, p.154), he stressed that the petitioners could still import kosher meat without the necessity of import permits. The impact of the meat Law, even if it did infringe on the freedoms of property, conscience, and equality, did not impair the essence of our constitutional regime.

He held, therefore, that the petitioners' submissions relating to the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation, could not be accepted.

The petitioners, he continued, had also submitted that the meat Law infringed upon the freedoms enshrined in the Basic Law: The Dignity and Freedom of Man, of 1992. This submission too, he found, could not be upheld.

Citing the Barzilai case (H.C.428/86) - Selected Supreme Court Judgments (English), vol. VI, p.1), he pointed out that the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation - including the section permitting divergent legislation - was a central part of the constitutional scheme governing human rights in Israel. Every constitutional provision reflected on the whole scheme, and could not be interpreted in isolation.

As a Canadian court had ruled, "Our constitutional Charter must be construed as a system where every component contributes to the meaning as a whole, and the whole gives meaning to its parts... The court must interpret each section of the charter in relation to the others."

Applying the above principle, he concluded, the interpretation of the Freedom of Occupation Law also governs the Dignity and Freedom of Man Law, with the result that the petitioners' case, resting on the latter Basic Law, must also fail.

For the above reasons, the petition was dismissed. Renato Yarak and Hila Keren appeared for the petitioners, and Uzi Fogelman, Director of the High Court Division of the State Attorney's Office, appeared for the State.

The judgment was given on November 25, 1996.

US addresses religious rights abuses overseas

IN an effort to put a spotlight on global religious strife, the US State Department on recently named 20 prominent American religious leaders and scholars to a newly formed committee to advise the administration on violations of religious freedom in other countries.

The move comes after a year of pressure from some evangelical Christian groups agitating for the appointment of an individual "special adviser" to focus specifically on persecution of Christians overseas. But the State Department resisted that idea, opting for a committee with a broad mandate to address human-rights abuses against people of all religions.

"Religious and ethnic conflict have often been at the forefront of human-rights dilemmas in recent years," John Shattuck, assistant secretary of state and chair of the new committee, said in his announcement of the formation of the panel. "My own personal experience in addressing the human catastrophe in Bosnia and working with Catholic, Orthodox and Moslem religious leaders in the long struggle for peace, justice and reconciliation has shown me how important it is to stand up for religious freedom and tolerance," he said.

The committee includes religious leaders who are Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox and evangelical Christian, Moslem, Jewish, Baha'i, Mormon and African Methodist Episcopal, as well as Methodist Episcopal, as well as scholars noted for their expertise in international conflict resolution, religious diversity, the Holocaust

and Buddhism. The group's main job will be to "provide information to the US government" on religious rights abuses overseas, and to look for ways that non-governmental religious groups can help mediate conflicts, Shattuck said. The committee, which will report directly to the secretary of state, will hold public meetings, he said.

The first meeting could come early next year, a State Department source said.

In recent years, human-rights organizations have documented torture and killings of Christians and Buddhists in China, Bahai's in Iran, and Moslems in India, for example. Religious hatred has inflamed the civil strife in Bosnia, the Sudan and other places.

"The fact that this committee was appointed is testimony to the importance of religion as a factor in foreign policy," said committee member David Little, senior scholar for religion, ethics and human rights at the United States Institute of Peace.

The announcement by the panel was delayed until after the election because the White House wanted to avoid the perception that this was merely a political maneuver designed to curry favor with people of faith, according to sources at the White House and the State Department. According to one White House official who requested to remain anonymous, "the only threat to the success of this initiative was for it to be overpoliticized."

(The Washington Post)

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Tour guide: Carol-Anne Bernheim

Thursday Jan. 9 THE GALILEE - PEOPLE AND PLACES
Jews, Arabs, Christians, Oruse, Beduin, Circassians - living together in a spectacular Mediterranean landscape makes the Galilee the interesting place it is. Our tour will take us to Kaukab, Hararit, Yodfat, Shorashim, Saknin and Eshbar - a mosaic of human scenery living in an ideal setting. We'll meet the people and see the sites. NIS 185 (including lunch)
Tour guide: Mark Rosenstein

Thursday Jan. 23 TU BISHVAT, MAN AND EARTH
On this special day, we'll visit the places and people who continue the traditions of centuries with the use of medicinal herbs, plants, berries, trees and even learn from the animals in the region. We'll be in the Galilee and we'll meet the experts in the Druse village of Yerka, Yanuch and Oer Hana with its 2,400 year old olive trees. We'll hear from Hamzi Arzida and Wahid Maadi and come away a lot wiser. NIS 190 (including lunch)
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Monday, December 9, 1996

Gov't to float 10% stake in Bank Leumi in May

THE government will offer 10 percent of Bank Leumi's shares in European and American financial markets, a senior official closely involved in the bank's privatization process said yesterday.

MI Holdings, the government firm in charge of selling the state's shares in the banks, initially planned to sell the 10% stake in 1995, but has encountered difficulties due to last year's capital-market slump and political instability.

About 20% of Bank Leumi's shares are currently traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

MI Holdings' general manager Meir Yacobson returned from London Saturday night, after meeting with representatives of overseas investment banks that are likely to take part in the planned offering. Among others, Yacobson met with representatives from

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Merrill Lynch, Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, UBS and Lehman Brothers.

The government intends to offer Global Depository Receipts, which will be listed on the London Stock Exchange, and American Depository Receipts, to be issued in New York, to institutional investors. The ADRs will not be listed on the stock exchange.

Yacobson also met with heads of the London Stock Exchange and lawyers who are likely to advise MI Holdings on issues associated with the offering.

"The overseas bankers are enthusiastic," the source said.

Lehman Brothers published an economic

report last week which concluded that Bank Leumi is to become Israel's most profitable financial institution in 1997.

"Leumi remains our favored Israeli banking stock and we continue to rate it to outperform," the report said.

Bank Leumi has already started to prepare a prospectus for the offering, which is to be based on the bank's financial statements for December 1996, to be published in the first quarter of 1997.

The government last held a public offering of Bank Leumi's shares in 1993, when it sold a 13% stake in the state's second-largest bank. A tender process, which would have led to the direct sale of a controlling share in the bank, failed in 1994 after the Safra Group withdrew from the bidding.

Koreans seek Israeli partners from 150 companies

DAVID HARRIS

ELEVEN senior executives from the Korean-based Hanwha Corporation, including group vice president Jae-Won Kim, are meeting with 150 company representatives during their first visit to Israel this week.

Hanwha is looking for Israeli partners in biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, communications, banking and venture capital, according to Industry and Trade Ministry Center for Business Promotion head Noah Shani.

Established in 1952, Hanwha, Korea's seventh largest conglomerate with \$14 billion annual turnover, comprises companies in the chemicals, explosives, energy and machinery manufacturing sectors.

Company representatives already have met Industry and Trade Minister Natan Shbaransky, Communications Ministry director-general Shlomo Waxe and senior staff at Koor Industries Ltd., Clal Israel Ltd. and Israel Aircraft Industries Ltd.

Hanwha is a key partner of the Korean government in its communications satellite program.

In September, a team from Korea's Hallya Group visited Haifa to discuss the possible purchase of civilian satellite technology.

Of particular interest to Seoul is Israel's first communications satellite, Amos 1, which was launched in May.

Two senior Foreign Ministry officials made a trip to Korea last week for talks on further economic cooperation between the two countries. In the first nine months of the year, trade volume between Israel and Korea totalled \$551 million, a figure both sides said they want to increase.

Foreign Ministry sources said recently they expect Korea to be the first Asian country to invest on a large scale in Israel.

While much hope has been placed on possible investments from Japan, these have not yet come to fruition, with the Japanese saying they are waiting for regional stability.

The Koreans, it is argued, are less cautious and will act when they are confident of a transaction's future profitability.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Haifa's Elscint signs agreement with Siemens: The medical engineering group of Siemens AG of Germany and Elscint Ltd. yesterday announced they signed an agreement to jointly develop and produce electromagnetic technology. The medical engineering division is one of Siemens' larger groups, employing about 22,400 people worldwide with sales reaching about \$11 billion for 1995. Elscint of Haifa is a medical-imaging company that designs and manufactures a range of products, including magnetic resonance imaging, nuclear medicine and mammography systems.

Jennifer Friedman

Israeli business delegation in Taiwan: The joint economic committee between Israel and Taiwan met in Taipei this weekend as part of ongoing negotiations between the countries. The main themes discussed included encouraging joint ventures in biotechnology, agriculture and space technology. It is hoped, as a result of the meeting, a series of business delegations will be sent from both countries.

David Harris

World Trade group's first conference begins: Industry and Trade Ministry director-general Yehoshua Geitman will represent Israel at this week's World Trade Organization conference, beginning in Singapore today.

This is the first meeting of the WTO since it was founded two years ago. Some 5,000 people will attend from more than 150 countries. On the agenda is world trade in information technology. It is estimated IT sales reached \$550 billion last year. Other subjects include free trade agreements and interim agreements on government procurement.

Originally the delegation was to have been headed by Minister Natan Shbaransky, but he decided to stay home because of the ongoing budget deliberations and today's expected cabinet vote.

David Harris

Syria agrees to buy European airliners: Syria signed a contract with France to buy six Airbus A-320 planes, official sources said yesterday. The sources said Syrian and French officials signed the deal on Saturday in the presence of Syrian Transport Minister Mufeed Abdul-Karim. The first two planes would be sent to Syria in 1998, they said. Syria will use the planes to start flights to Latin America and south Asia and also to double flights to Arab and European countries. The sources did not reveal the value of the contract.

Reuter

Major won't 'fudge' conditions for entry of single Europe: British Prime Minister John Major made clear that if other European nations were "fudging" the economic conditions for entry into a single currency, then Britain would stay out. "If they are fudging the criteria there would be no question of the UK joining," the prime minister said. He refused to be drawn into whether Britain would join the "first wave" of nations participating in the single currency in 1999. Major also stood by his finance minister, ruling out dismissing the pro-European Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke, as has been demanded by some anti-European members of the Conservative Party.

Reuter

German metal, engineering unions reach pay deal: German metal and engineering trade union IG Metall said yesterday negotiators in the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg agreed a wage deal which maintained full sick-pay for some 300,000 employees there. An IG Metall spokesman said a deal had been reached Thursday night that mirrored a breakthrough earlier the same day in the smaller state of Lower Saxony.

The news came as representatives of the Gesamtmetall employers' federation met in Frankfurt to discuss the deal reached in Lower Saxony, with Gesamtmetall officials saying before the meeting that the deal was likely to be sharply criticized. According to the IG Metall spokesman, the new deal was similar to the Lower Saxony deal "in all main points." Aside from the maintenance of full sick pay, wages for workers in the southern part of the Baden Wuerttemberg will rise by 1.5 percent next year and an additional 2.5% in 1998.

Reuter

China has \$100m. on the line in EU trade spat: China said yesterday that \$100 million of exports and thousands of jobs were at risk in a textile dispute with the European Union, and it vowed to protect its interests. An EU decision last month to impose 22.6% anti-dumping duties on unbleached cotton cloth imported from China was "groundless and unacceptable," the official Xinhua news agency said. The agency quoted Yu Boge, vice-president of the China National Textiles Import and Export Corp., as saying that "if no big changes are made in the final decision next May, nearly all Chinese bleached-cloth exports to the EU will be forced out of that market." China exports about \$100m. of unbleached cotton fabric to the EU annually. More than 100 Chinese manufacturers and 20 trading companies are engaged in the business.

Reuter

Provident fund yields positive for 3rd month

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE banking sector's provident funds achieved positive real yields in November, for the third consecutive month, the banks reported yesterday.

Funds specializing in investments in shares achieved the highest returns, mainly because of the improvement in the share market last month, Bank Hapoalim said.

Bank Hapoalim's Gadish Fund, the largest fund in the country, achieved a real yield of 0.8 percent last month. The fund manages assets of NIS 11.82 billion. The fund achieved an accumulated negative return of 0.2% since the start of the year.

Bank Leumi's Ozma Fund, the third largest fund in the country, reported a real yield of 0.59% in November. In the first 11 months of the year, the fund achieved a real yield of 0.52%, the highest among the large banks.

Bank Discount intends to publish its funds' yields today.

Among the smaller funds, United Mizrahi Bank's Atid Fund had a real yield of 0.64% in November. Since the start of the year, the fund had set only a negative yield of 0.16%.

First International Bank's Karen

Hashefa reported a positive real yield of 0.43% in November. Since the start of the year, the fund achieved an accumulated yield of 0.51%.

Bank Otzar Hahayel reported a real yield of 0.4% in November and 2.1% since the start of the year.

Non-bank funds also reported improved yields. For example, the Nativ Fund, which is managed by Koor Capital Markets Nativot Pension, reported a real positive yield of 0.58% in November. The fund announced an accumulated real yield of 2.39%.

More builders at financial risk, survey says

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ABOUT 48 percent of firms in the construction sector are in the "high financial risk" category, compared to 43% in April, according to a survey by Business Data-Isreal.

The BDI survey is based on data from the first nine months of 1996. The indicators include bounced checks, liquidity problems and legal claims.

The building sector suffered from a significant slow-down in the third quarter of the year, which reduced investments compared to 1995, led to a drop in building starts, delays in public construction and a decrease in prices, said BDI.

According to BDI, the commercial, industry and office sectors registered the most significant price declines.

The survey said the situation was influenced by the closure of the territories, unclear government policies and the expectations of potential buyers that prices would fall in future because of the slowdown in all economic activity.

The sector also was hindered by the rise in mortgage interest rates and credit restrictions on contractors that have reduced the ability of companies in the sector to raise capital to finance new building projects.

According to BDI, about 41.5% of all construction companies with an annual sales turnover of more than NIS 100 million are at high risk, while 46.3% of all firms with sales of NIS 50m. to NIS 100m. are at high risk.

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Date: 5.12.96
Purchase Price: 113.84
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113.84 ₪

Ports and Railways Authority

Cranes for Sale

Tender No. 5555/96

- The Ports and Railways Authority - Israel (hereinafter "The P.R.A.") offers for sale the following used cranes.

No.	Description	Qty.	Make	Year	Capacity/Ton	Crane Span
1.1	Gantry	2	Boomsache	73	35 TON	16M
1.2	Portainer	1	Pacado	75	35 TON	16M
1.3	Transtainer (RMG)	1	Pacado	75	35 TON	44.5M
1.4	Transtainer (RTG)	1	Pacado	74	35 TON	76 FT
1.5	Floating Crane	1	Wiley	80	100 TON	-

- All cranes will be sold in "As Is" condition.
- The removal of the cranes from the ports will be done in a limited schedule and in coordination with the P.R.A. with minimum interference to ports operations and at the bidders expense.
- Proposals may be submitted for one or more of the above cranes. Proposals must be submitted for each crane separately. A bid bond in the value of 5% of proposal, for all cranes proposed, not including VAT to be attached to the proposal. The bond will be in force for 90 days after the submission date.
- Tender documents are available at the address hereinafter.

The Ports and Railways Authority - Head Office
Purchase Division
74 Petach Tikvah Road, 11th Floor, Room 1103
Israel
Tel: 972-3-5657064, Fax: 972-3-5616027

A technical inspection of the cranes can be done subject to pre-coordination.

- Proposals must be submitted no later than January 26, 1997 at the address above.
- The P.R.A. is not obligated to accept the most expensive proposal or any other proposal.
- The P.R.A. reserves the right to conduct negotiations with those bidders that were found to be suitable.
- The P.R.A. reserves the right to reach agreements with more than one bidder, and/or not to sell all cranes.

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patrah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposits for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.75	5.25	5.75
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.00	4.25
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (6.12.96)

Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rate**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.8247	3.8832	3.18	3.34	3.2780
German mark	2.1045	2.1385	2.08	2.17	2.1240
Pound sterling	5.5195	5.4018	5.22	5.48	5.3587
French franc	0.8222	0.8329	0.81	0.85	0.8267
Japanese yen (100)	2.8886	2.9382	2.83	2.98	2.9178
Dutch florin	1.5781	1.5084	1.54	1.54	1.5838
Swiss franc	2.4828	2.5284	2.44	2.57	2.5370
Spanish peseta	0.4783	0.4891	0.47	0.50	0.4827
Norwegian krona	0.5028	0.5110	0.49	0.52	0.5078
Danish krone	0.5488	0.5587	0.54	0.57	0.5647
Finnish mark	0.7042	0.7158	0.69	0.73	0.7108
Canadian dollar	2.3861	2.4246	2.34	2.46	2.4082
Australian dollar	2.5845	2.6282	2.54	2.67	2.6087
S. African rand	0.8887	0.9070	0.83	0.71	0.7084
Belgian franc (10)	1.0218	1.0376	1.00	1.08	1.0386
Austrian schilling (10)	2.9518	3.0401	2.94	3.08	3.0182
Italian lira (1000)	2.1283	2.1827	2.09	2.20	2.1481
Jordanian dinar	4.5100	4.8200	4.51	4.82	4.6149
Egyptian pound	0.9500	1.0000	0.92	1.00	1.0382
ECU	4.0551	4.1208	4.04	4.18	4.0804
Irish punt	5.3383	5.4256	5.24	5.51	5.3839
Spanish peseta (100)	2.9008	2.8410	2.45	2.58	2.6285

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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Gold slips as US stock plunge fails to bring buyers back

Key Representative Rates		Change
U.S. Dollar	NIS 3.2730	
Sterling	NIS 5.3887	
German mark	NIS 2.1240	

Gold slips as US stock plunge fails to bring buyers

COMMODITIES ROUNDUP

A SHARP dip in the Dow Jones Industrial Average, as well as a sell-off in the Japanese and European stock markets Friday failed to ignite a rally in gold and sent precious metals lower.

Traders said many expected a sell-off in world equities to attract portfolio hedgers to precious metals. The absence of investors buying gold early Friday was a sell signal for precious metals, they said.

December gold closed down 2.20 at \$369.10. December silver ended down 8.7 at \$4.743. December copper closed up .05 at 104.90 and January platinum was down 2.60 at \$72.80.

Boosted by hopes for improved demand and carryover from a late surge Thursday, wheat futures at the Chicago Board of Trade ended with solid gains Friday. Corn futures settled with slight declines in light-volume and featureless activity.

Many observers attributed strength in the wheat pit to technical follow-through from Thursday, when prices sank early but rallied late to close higher. Export talk also lent support, in particular the expectation that Egypt will make a tender for wheat over the weekend. Even though the US is expected to see little, if any, of this business, the expected tender appeared to restore some optimism in the US export outlook.

December corn closed down 1.25 cents at \$2.6725 per bushel and December wheat ended up 6.25 cents at \$3.9100 per bushel.

Soybean futures closed steady to lower on Friday, making new lows into the close as soybean prices fell. A lack of fresh news pressured soybeans as the market sorted through the late gains from Thursday. Without friendly news to push up the market further, soybeans chopped quietly, with the deferreds holding a light premium to nearby. January soybean futures settled 7 1/2 cents lower to close at \$6.88-1/2.

New York cotton futures settled higher on the day, Friday, on speculator buying, noticeably on the close, according to traders. The December contract settled 64 points higher at 74.81 cents, which was the day's high. The low for the session was 73.75 cents. The March contract settled 51 points higher at 76.11. Friday was the last trading day for December 1996 cotton futures.

Courtesy of Michael Zwebner, CommStock Trading Ltd.

GRAPES

(Continued from Page 1)

"Once again you were at the front, leading your force, and now we are here in Deir al-Makour having lost a friend and a fighter, a courageous Beduin," Levine said in his eulogy. "We came to console and once again we find ourselves consoled by the family and the Beduin community, which with respect, dignity, quietly and with restraint, honors its fallen."

Hujeirat is survived by his wife, their two young children, his father, and eight brothers and sisters.

His close friend and comrade-in-arms, St-Sgt. Kamal Mussa, from Tarshiba village in the Galilee, a Moslem volunteer in the IDF, was moderately wounded in the blast. Mussa told reporters that he and Hujeirat were leading a road-clearing mission and Hujeirat had climbed a slope to tell him to check the other side of the route when the first device was detonated, followed by two others.

At the same time, Hizballah gunmen fired several anti-tank missiles at the patrol, sparking heavy exchanges in the area. Seven civilians were wounded in Tibnit village, north of the zone, apparently by a dart-filled shell fired by an IDF tank.

Hizballah, which has sharply criticized the monitoring group for failing to protect Lebanese civilians, has threatened to retaliate for the Tibnit incident.

Meanwhile, fighting continued in the zone yesterday with another long-range Hizballah anti-tank missile attack on a South Lebanese Army position in the Soujoud region, in the eastern sector. There were no casualties in that incident and IDF and SLA gunmen returned fire.

US Treasury secretary plays down of US stock drop

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin yesterday played down the importance of last week's steep slide in global stock markets and urged investors to focus on the long-term.

"What people really ought to be looking at is not these kind of day to day fluctuations but what they think economic conditions are going to be like over time," the Treasury chief said on NBC television's "Meet the Press" program.

Equity prices dropped from Tokyo to New York on Friday after Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan raised the possibility that the high-flying Wall Street market might be overvalued.

The Dow Jones industrial average of blue-chip shares fell by over 140 points before stabilizing to end the day 55.16 points down.

Rubin said the central bank chief was merely asking a question about the level of the stock market, not saying that it had risen too far.

"I interpret the chairman as simply raising a question, not suggesting an answer," the Treasury chief said. "It is a very important distinction."

Rubin, who meets weekly with Greenspan to

discuss the economy and other issues, said he had not been surprised by the Fed chairman's remarks but made clear that the central banker spoke on his own.

Senate Majority leader Trent Lott was not as reticent as Rubin in taking on the Fed, calling last week's stock market slide a testament to Greenspan's strength.

"I've always been a little nervous about the Fed," the Mississippi Republican told Fox News. "I don't want to bash them ... but I think interest rates should be lower."

Rubin, a former Wall Street executive, declined to say whether he thought the stock market had risen too far, despite repeated questioning.

But he did say that markets follow fundamentals over time and that the US fundamentals had been "very good" during President Bill Clinton's first four years in office.

What was important now was whether the Clinton administration and Congress could work together to tackle the economic problems facing the United States, including balancing the federal government budget.

To help in that regard, Rubin left open the

possibility of adjusting the Consumer Price Index, which is used to calculate annual cost-of-living increases for Social Security and other government benefit programs.

A congressionally-appointed commission last week concluded that the CPI overstates inflation by 1.1 percentage point per year, effectively costing the government billions of dollars a year in extra pension and other payments.

Rubin agreed that the CPI was an imperfect measure of inflation. "The question is, based on scientific and technical analysis, can we arrive at a better version of the CPI?"

"I don't think that we should rule out a change in the CPI if, based on a technical analysis, there is a broad-based agreement that the CPI can be changed in a such a way as to better, more accurately reflect inflation," Rubin added.

Speaking on the same television programme, US House Budget Committee chairman John Kasich from Ohio said Republicans were in favor of changing the way the CPI is measured, but that Clinton needed to take the lead on any adjustments.

UN ready to implement Iraq oil-for-food plan

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - Secretary-general Boutros Boutros Ghali is likely to give clearance for the start of the Iraqi oil-for-food plan as early as today, paving the way for Baghdad to enter world oil markets for the first time in six years, senior UN officials said.

Although Boutros Ghali himself was cautious in predicting any start date, the officials said the Dutch-based Saybolt firm late Friday found Iraqi pipeline equipment in order, the last technical obstacle left before the plan's implementation.

At issue is Security Council resolution 986 that allows Iraq to sell \$2 billion of oil over six months to buy food, medicine and other necessities for its people, suffering from the sanctions imposed in August 1990 after its troops invaded Kuwait. Nearly two-thirds of oil sales revenues are earmarked for needy Iraqis, with the balance for war reparations and other Gulf War-related costs.

Saybolt told the United Nations that key oil-metering equipment was in "functional" order at the Zakho facility along the Turkey-Iraq border, through which the bulk of the oil will pass, a UN official said. "Their inspectors had previously found some of the equipment faulty or missing, requiring a return visit this week to ensure repairs had been carried out."

Boutros Ghali earlier Friday said he was awaiting the Saybolt report before making a determination on when he would give clearance for the start of Iraqi oil sales, shying away from giving an exact date for starting the plan. "When I receive it I will have a meeting and on the basis of this meeting we will decide (when the clearance for oil sales can be given)," he told reporters.

The procedure is for Boutros Ghali to give a one-page report to the council after which the deal can go ahead a minute past midnight, New York time, on the following day. At UN headquarters, a group of oil experts or overseers who first need to approve any contracts before Iraq can start shipping the oil, are returning to New York next week, an indication the deal was being readied.

"We're still iffy on the timing," UN spokeswoman Sylvana Foa said. "Obviously we are getting closer to the magic moment for the implementation of resolution 986. But we cannot pinpoint with any accuracy when he will be able to transmit the final report to the Council."

Iraqi Oil Minister Gen. Amir Muhammad Rasheed said oil exports would start tomorrow. But UN officials downplayed the timing, noting the work schedule for the overseers was not settled and oil contracts can take up to 24 hours for review.

Debts keep rising, but Americans keep spending

NEW YORK (Reuters) - With the holiday shopping season in full swing, it appears the big debts consumers keep racking up are not holding back spending as some analysts had feared.

Americans have added almost \$100 billion in credit card, auto loan and other installment debt to a total of nearly \$1.2 trillion as of Sept. 30, up from \$1.1 trillion at the end of 1995, according to the figures from the Federal Reserve.

Credit card delinquencies are also rising, but consumers keep shopping as if there were no tomorrow, according to reports from retailers and other anecdotal evidence.

Despite five fewer shopping days this season because of a late Thanksgiving, analysts expect a 5 percent to 6 percent increase in holiday sales over 1995's disappointing season.

"Every indication we have says per-person spending is up and people have intentions to spend even more than last year," said William Ford, an economics professor at Middle Tennessee State University who also is an adviser to TeleCheck, which tracks consumer purchases by check.

Yet many observers, including Fed Gov. Lawrence Lindsey, believe the high debt levels are problematic. "When one looks at the data this expansion does raise some troubling statistics," Lindsey said in Washington Thursday. "Roughly for every extra dol-

lar we're earning, we're spending \$1.10. This is not a sustainable trend."

Private economists, though, dismiss high debt levels as a sign of consumer optimism about the economy. Some even say the debt figures are misleading since consumers use credit cards to buy nearly everything now because many cards offer airline frequent-flyer miles or other perks for each dollar charged.

Steven Ricchiuto, chief economist at Dean Witter Reynolds Inc., noted that consumer debt as a percentage of income was actually lower now than before the 1990 recession. In December 1989 total debt, including mortgages, equaled 17.6 percent of disposable income. After falling to 15.3 percent at the end of 1993, it has risen to 17 percent but has started leveling off the past two quarters, he said.

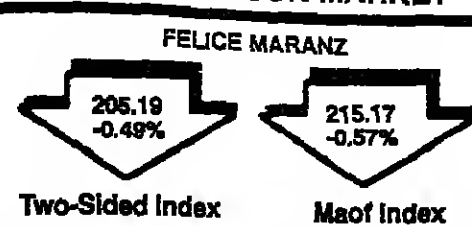
"The accumulation of debt has to be questioned whether debt levels are a problem," he said.

Professor Ford said that while banks have tightened credit standards in recent months, credit was still relatively easy to get. "Merchants are saying, 'buy now with no interest until next year,'" he said.

"Consumers have the wherewithal to spend and the willingness to spend," said Ira Silver, chief economist at J.C. Penney Co.

TASE shares drop after Israeli issues fall in New York

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET



STOCKS fell after Israeli companies - including Teva Pharmaceutical Industries and Koor Industries Ltd. - declined on Wall Street during the weekend.

US stocks closed lower Friday, after Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan cited "irrational exuberance" in the market. The benchmark S&P 500 Index closed down 4.78 points.

The Maof Index fell 0.57 percent to 215.17 and the Two-sided Index fell 0.49 percent to 205.19.

"Stocks are down because of Wall Street, but overall there's no panic and investors are waiting to see what will happen with America tomorrow," said Dan Alt, a broker at Tel Aviv brokerage Neusha Trading. "Teva and Koor are pulling the indexes down."

Teva, the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange's most-active share, fell 1 percent in late trading. The drug company's American depository receipts fell to close at 47 1/4 Friday, down 1/4 from the stock's

six-month high on Wednesday. Koor fell 1.5 percent in late trading. Koor's ADRs fell 1/8 from Wednesday to Friday, closing at 16 3/4.

On the two-sided index, Mofet Israel fund, which invests in Israeli high-tech start-up companies, fell 3/4 percent in late trading. One of Mofet's holdings traded in New York, Internet software company Vocaltec Ltd., dropped 3.8 percent Friday.

Unlike other shares across the board, banking shares rose, boosted by the perception that "they're trading below their assets," said Alt.

"Banks, particularly mortgage banks, are relatively cheap," he said. "Mortgage banks are trading at a low price-to-earnings ratio and investors are seeking cheap sectors."

On the Maof Index, Bank Hapoalim and Bank Leumi both rose 0.25 percent. First International Bank of Israel Ltd. and Israel Discount Bank closed unchanged.

Web site created for information on securities fraud cases

PALO ALTO, Calif. (Reuters) - The Securities and Exchange Commission said Friday it was joining Stanford Law School and federal judges in northern California in a bid to provide public access to securities lawsuits via the Internet.

As part of the effort, Stanford Law School said it created a site on the Internet's World Wide Web that could serve as a clearinghouse for information on securities fraud cases.

Institutional investors with more than \$1 trillion in assets under management have already registered for automatic updates of the Stanford Law School site. The move follows the defeat last month of Proposition 211, a California ballot issue that would have made it easier to file class-action securities lawsuits in the state.

"We would have done this without regard to 211," said Stanford Law School Professor Joseph Grundfest, adding that a new rule would be adopted to foster electronic filing.

The SEC said judges of the US District Court for the Northern District of California have proposed a rule that would require attorneys in securities fraud cases to post major litigation documents on the Internet. The proposed rule would not obligate attorneys to post the documents on any particular site, however, and the SEC said it would provide on its home page a

list of qualified Internet sites for such data, of which Stanford would be the first.

This would be similar to the way in which publicly traded corporations disclose financial information through the SEC's Edgar site, which was started as a university project.

SEC Commissioner Steve Wallman said in a statement that, like the electronic access to financial disclosures, investors "will now start to have the same access to information about federal securities fraud class-action litigation."

Thelton Henderson, chief judge of the US District Court for the Northern District of California, said the court was seeking comments from attorneys and others on the proposal.

The Northern District of California is home to Silicon Valley, and the venue for more class-action securities fraud litigation than any other federal court in the nation.

Henderson said securities class-action lawsuits often require communication with thousands of people. "In a world of paper-based correspondence that process is often slow and expensive," Henderson said. "The Internet may help alleviate this problem by creating a cheap and efficient means of providing class members in securities cases with detailed and timely information about litigation."

BUDGET

(Continued from Page 1)

clear that we have to crowd the classrooms more, I would have a hard time bearing the burden of education minister," Hammer told reporters before the meeting.

Meridor also discussing the budget with Geshar MKs. Before the meeting, Foreign Minister David Levy said Geshar would not support the budget unless all the promises made to the faction are kept. Meridor responded by calling for all coalition MKs to act responsibly.

"The cut has become an economic and political litmus test," he said. "I don't remember a time when we took on such an onerous responsibility."

The key factor in deciding the level of the additional cut, according to Meridor, was ensuring the budget deficit is reduced to 2.8 percent of GDP by October 1997. Treasury estimates suggest the original NIS 4.9b. cuts are insufficient to achieve this aim.

The size of the additional cut was only finalized by Treasury officials after last week's publication of the budget deficit total to November (NIS 9.336b.) and the revenues collected thus far in

1996 (NIS 87.1b.).

"Implementing this budget will guarantee inflation continues to decrease and that unemployment will carry on declining," said Netanyahu last night. "Successful implementation will lead to large investments in Israel."

Meridor also convened a meeting last week with leading economists, who recommended the need to decrease public expenditure and advised against increasing taxes. Those attending, including Avi Ben-Bassat, Assaf Razin, and Victor Lavi, warned particularly against increasing taxes on employers, given the current state of the economy. The economists also suggested it would be harmful to cut any of the budget set aside for R&D projects.

The Bank of Israel learnt its support last night to the Treasury's proposals. An additional cut of some NIS 2b. is required, the bank said in a statement. This would lead to a reduction in the deficit, which in turn means an improvement in the balance of payments and the restoration of the economy to the right track.

Batshevo Tsur contributed to this report.

SHARANSKY

(Continued from Page 1)

sions must be accepted by all sections of Israeli society. The attitude of the rabbis should be more positive and more friendly, he said, and Sephardi Chief Rabbi Elisha Bakshi-Doron, who is in charge of the rabbinical courts, had not even addressed that issue.

In reaction, Rabbi Eilat Ramon, spokesman for the Conservative Movement in Israel, said that by suggesting there would be no change in the status quo,

Sharansky was trying to put one over on Oiaspora Jewry. It is clear, she said, that the religious parties are attempting to end the present situation, whereby Israeli citizens could go abroad and convert to Judaism with non-Orthodox rabbis, and Sharansky had not even addressed that issue.

Ramon also accused Sharansky of failing to solve the problem of an estimated 150,000 Russian immigrants, who are not Jews according to Halacha.

TEL AVIV STOCKS				AFTERNOON				MORNING			
Multi-sided trading				Two-sided trading							
Name	Price	% Change	Volume	Name	Price	% Change	Volume	Name	Price	% Change	Volume
Commercial Banks				Afternoon				Morning			
Bank Leumi	1423.0			Bank Leumi	1423.0			Bank Leumi	1423.0		
Bank Hapoalim	1780.0			Bank Hapoalim	1780.0			Bank Hapoalim	1780.0		
Bank Mizrahi	1320.0			Bank Mizrahi	1320.0			Bank Mizrahi	1320.0		
Bank Discount	163.00			Bank Discount	163.00			Bank Discount	163.00		
Mortgage Banks				Mortgage Banks				Mortgage Banks			
Alumi	277.0			Alumi	277.0			Alumi	277.0		
Alumi TL	4010.0			Alumi TL	4010.0			Alumi TL	4010.0		
Alumi TL	148.50			Alumi TL	148.50			Alumi TL	148.50		
Alumi TL	1522.0			Alumi TL	1522.0			Alumi TL	1522.0		
Alumi TL	1197.0			Alumi TL	1197.0			Alumi TL	1197.0		
Alumi TL	1700.0			Alumi TL	1700.0			Alumi TL	1700.0		
Financial Institutions				Financial Institutions				Financial Institutions			
Bank of Israel	201.0			Bank of Israel	201.0			Bank of Israel	201.0		
Bank of Israel	544.0			Bank of Israel	544.0			Bank of Israel	544.0		
Bank of Israel	800.0			Bank of Israel	800.0			Bank of Israel	800.0		
Bank of Israel	748.0			Bank of Israel	748.0			Bank of Israel	748.0		
Bank of Israel	111.00			Bank of Israel	111.00			Bank of Israel	111.00		
Bank of Israel	482.0			Bank of Israel	482.0			Bank of Israel	482.0		
Bank of Israel	1320.0			Bank of Israel	1320.0			Bank of Israel	1320.0		
Bank of Israel	182.0			Bank of Israel	182.0			Bank of Israel	182.0		
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Bank of Israel	482.0			Bank of Israel	482.0			Bank of Israel	482.0		
Bank of Israel	1320.0			Bank of Israel							

Becker stops Ivanisevic for Grand Slam Tapiro's heroics lift Eilat

ELI GRONER

MUNICH (AP) - Boris Becker served with devastating efficiency against the most ferocious server in the game and beat Goran Ivanisevic in straight sets to win the most lucrative prize in tennis yesterday.

Riding the support of a partisan crowd of 10,000 in the city where he lives, Becker routed Ivanisevic 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 in the final of the \$6 million Grand Slam Cup.

The victory earned Becker \$1.875 million. Ivanisevic had to settle for \$812,500.

"I fell good from the start, I returned well and I was getting my first serves in," Becker said.

The tournament brings together the 16 men with the best record in the four Grand Slam tournaments of the year - the Australian, French and US Opens and Wimbledon.

Becker, who is ranked No. 6 in the world, was simply better in all aspects of the game against the fourth-ranked Croat, who was the defending champion.

He never dropped his serve throughout the match, and never even faced a break point. He took just one hour and 24 minutes to beat the man who has blasted

more than 1,550 aces this year, a staggering historic high on the tour. Becker hit 19 aces, Ivanisevic had only 12.

It was Becker's 49th tournament victory, and the 30th indoors. Considered one of the best indoor players in the world, Becker had never won the Grand Slam Cup before.

Becker broke for a 5-3 lead when a forehand by Ivanisevic hit the net and converted his second set point when Ivanisevic's forehand return again found the net.

Becker went a break up in the first game of the second, this time with a brilliant backhand volley that escaped a lunging Ivanisevic.

Winning almost all of his service points, Becker cruised through the set.

A forehand passing shot gave Becker another break point and he took it with a smash to go up 3-2 in the third.

Ivanisevic saved two match points, one thanks to a Becker double-fault, but he then hit a backhand into the net after a rally.

"He was the reason I lost. I didn't know what to do, he was too good," Ivanisevic said.



CRUISING - Boris Becker wins Grand Slam Cup in straight sets. (Reuters)

Tapiro's heroics lift Eilat

MEIR Tapiro grabbed a loose rebound and then nailed a 12-foot jump-shot at the buzzer giving Hapoel Eilat a last-second victory over struggling Maccabi Rishon LeZion.

In other National Basketball League action, Hapoel Jerusalem and Bnei Herzliya continued their winning ways, while Ra'anana upended Holon, and Hapoel Tel Aviv defeated hapless Hapoel Safed.

Hapoel Eilat 69
Maccabi Rishon 68

Meir Tapiro grabbed an offensive rebound and then buried a medium-range jumper at the buzzer to buoy Eilat to a nail-biting home victory. The win sends the southerners into the mid-season break with a realistic chance of reaching the final four.

All appeared lost for coach Moshe Weinkrantz's club after Guy Kantor and Leadel Eckles sparked Rishon to a late 10-0 run to grab a 64-59 lead with only 2:40 to play. At that point, Tapiro, Joe Dawson and Amir Katz converted consecutive field-goals to take the lead back, 65-64.

Rishon countered by running a patient offense that concluded with an Eckles basket enabling the visitors to regain the advantage with just over a minute to play.

The see-saw battle continued, when Nadav Markovitz, in his last game before joining Limoges, drove the lane for a lay-up with 48 seconds remaining.

It took all of 16 seconds for Rishon to move back ahead, as Doron Jamchev buried two free-throws to make the score 68-67, setting the stage for Tapiro's heroics.

Maccabi Ra'anana 94
Hapoel Holon 80

League newcomers Ra'anana proved they are for real by breaking open a close game and garnering an impressive home victory.

Barak Peleg (16 points) and Paul Thompson (15) stormed out of the second-half gate to lead a surge after a tight first-half, that ended with Ra'anana clinging to a slim five-point edge.

Marc Brisker paced Ra'anana, contributing 28 points in a strong all-around effort. For Holon, Derrick Hamilton tallied 33.

Bnei Herzliya 87
Givat Shmuel 69

Host Herzliya proved it will be a force to be reckoned with in the second half of the season by giving another strong performance, evening their record at 5-5.

Lior Arditi sank a three-pointer early in the first half providing Herzliya with a 14-12 lead. The Herzliyans never looked back and gradually extended the lead until the final buzzer put Givat Shmuel out of its misery.

Herzliya's Todd Mitchell (24 points), Terrence Stansbury (22) and Arditi (19) led a balanced attack that kept Givat Shmuel off-guard all night.

Gerald Paddio scored 23 in a losing cause.

Hapoel Jerusalem 98
Maccabi Ramat Gan 87

Gadi Kedari's first road game as Jerusalem's coach happened to be on his former team's home court, Adi Gordon (31 points), Billy Thompson (23) and Dan Bingenheimer (16) made it a successful homecoming.

Hapoel Tel Aviv 92
Hapoel Safed 77

Demetri Hill's 35 points coupled with Safed's foul troubles down the stretch enabled the Tel Aviv club to beat the only team beneath them in the league standings. Safed's home-court loss all but ensured relegation at the end of the season.

Tonight, undefeated league champions Maccabi Tel Aviv travel north to play Pelephone Gali Elyon.

National Basketball League			
W	L	Pts.	
Hapoel Jerusalem	8	3	18
Maccabi Tel Aviv	9	0	18
Pelephone G Elyon	7	2	18
Givat Shmuel	6	6	16
Hapoel Holon	5	6	16
Hapoel Eilat	5	6	16
Maccabi Ra'anana	5	6	16
Maccabi R Gan	5	5	15
Bnei Herzliya	5	5	15
Maccabi Fishon	4	7	15
Hapoel Tel Aviv	4	7	15
Hapoel Safed	1	10	12

Bulls lose to Heat, suffer 1st home loss of season

CHICAGO (AP) - Dan Majerle's 3-pointer with 1.9 seconds left gave the Miami Heat an 83-80 victory over the Bulls on Saturday night, Chicago's first home defeat of the season.

Michael Jordan scored 37 points for the Bulls, who lost only twice in 54 preseason, regular-season and playoff games at the United Center on their way to the 1995-96 NBA title.

Alonzo Mourning scored 20 points and Tim Hardaway 16 for Miami, which had its nine-game winning streak snapped Friday by New York. The Heat has beaten the Bulls only six times in 39 tries since joining the league in 1988.

Hornets 94, SuperSonics 92
Tony Smith stole Detlef Schrempf's inbounds pass and scored the winning basket on a layup with 4.3 seconds left as Charlotte surprised host Seattle.

Glen Rice scored 22 points and Dell Curry had 21 for the Hornets, who scored the last seven points of the game to sweep the season series and hand the Sonics their third home loss of the season.

Pistons 95, Nets 69
Terry Mills scored 16 points and

point lead, scored 17 of the game's final 19 points to win at home.

It was the third straight win for the Knicks as they finished playing four games in five nights.

The Knicks held the Clippers to just eight points in the first quarter, watched Los Angeles go on a 21-0 run to end the third quarter, then held the Clippers without a field goal in the final five minutes.

Allan Houston had 14 points, Buck Williams had 12 points and 10 rebounds and Charles Oakley had 14 rebounds for New York, which swept the season series.

Bucks 126, Bullets 118
Glenn Robinson scored a career-high 44 points and Vin Baker had a season-best 36 as host Washington suffered its fourth straight loss.

Robinson made 16 of 23 shots, had seven rebounds and six assists in helping the Bucks break a two-game skid.

His previous career high was 39 points. Baker went 12-for-17 and made all 12 of his free throws. He also had 12 rebounds in 43 minutes.

Chris Webber and Calbert Cheaney led the Bullets with 21 points each.

Scharf announces squad to face Luxembourg

DEREK FATTAL

NATIONAL soccer team coach Shlomo Scharf has drafted four new players into his squad as training preparations begin in earnest today for next Sunday's World Cup qualifying group match at Ramat Gan against Luxembourg.

Three of the new faces are Betar Jerusalem players, a clear sign that Scharf is ready to rely on the men who have helped the capital outfit dominate the National League this season.

Veteran Eli Ohana is joined by Assi Domb and attacking right back Shmuelik Levy, one of the most exciting prospects to break into the squad for some time. Maccabi Tel Aviv is represented by Aloo Bruner.

Scharf has axed four players from the squad that played so atrociously against Cyprus last month. Out go Felix Halfon (Hapoel-Tel Aviv), Eli Driks (Maccabi-Tel Aviv), Moshe Giam and Alon Harazi (Maccabi Haifa). Maccabi Tel Aviv defender Gadi Bruner has not been called due to a lingering ankle injury.

After the Cyprus debacle the national team has to register a convincing win against Luxembourg, one of the weaker sides in Europe, to retain a remote chance of getting into the 1998 finals in France. Anything less will kill off the Israelis' prospects.

Goalkeepers: Bonnie Ginsburg (Maccabi Haifa), Rafi Cohen (Hapoel Haifa), Itzik Kornfeld (Betar Jerusalem).
Defenders: Amir Shelah (Maccabi Tel Aviv), Alon Bruner (Maccabi Tel Aviv), Nir Klinger (Maccabi Tel Aviv), Assi Domb (Betar Jerusalem), Shmuelik Levy (Betar Jerusalem), Yossi Abuksis (Betar Jerusalem), Alon Hazan (Maccabi Haifa), Tal Banin (Hapoel Haifa).

Midfielders: Avi Nimni (Maccabi Tel Aviv), Eyal Berkovitz (Southampton), Itzik Zohar (Betar Jerusalem), Arik Benunadot (Maccabi Haifa), David Ansjalem (Betar Jerusalem).
Forwards: Eli Ohana (Betar Jerusalem), Ronen Harazi (Betar Jerusalem), Haim Raviv (Celta Vigo), Ronnie Rosenthal (Tottenham).

SATURDAY'S NBA RESULTS:

New York 89, LA Clippers 80
Milwaukee 126, Washington 118
Atlanta 101, Toronto 75
Detroit 95, New Jersey 69
Miami 83, Chicago 86
Dallas 96, Vancouver 85
Houston 123, Philadelphia 108
Utah 104, Denver 91
Charlotte 94, Seattle 92

SCOREBOARD

NFL - Last night's early results: Tampa Bay 24, Washington 10; Chicago 35, St. Louis 9; Atlanta 31, New Orleans 15; Cincinnati 21, Baltimore 14; Green Bay 41, Broncos 6.

NHL - Saturday's results: Phoenix 4, New Jersey 3 (OT); Calgary 1, Boston 1; NY Rangers 4, Toronto 0; NY Islanders 2, Washington 0; Montreal 3, Chicago 2; Hartford 6, Buffalo 4; Pittsburgh 5, Anaheim 3; Los Angeles 4, Colorado 2; Ottawa 3, Vancouver 2; Tampa Bay 4, San Jose 3.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Miami	15	5	.750	
New York	12	6	.667	2
Orlando	8	7	.533	4 1/2
Washington	7	10	.412	6 1/2
Philadelphia	7	11	.389	7
New Jersey	4	11	.267	8 1/2
Boston	4	13	.235	9 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	17	2	.895	
Detroit	15	3	.833	1/2
Cleveland	11	8	.577	5
Atlanta	11	8	.577	6
Milwaukee	9	8	.529	7
Charlotte	9	9	.500	7 1/2
Indiana	8	8	.500	7 1/2
Toronto	8	12	.333	10 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Houston	17	2	.895	
Utah	16	2	.889	1/2
Dallas	7	11	.389	9 1/2
Minnesota	7	11	.389	9 1/2
Denver	5	15	.250	12 1/2
San Antonio	3	14	.176	13
Vancouver	3	17	.150	14 1/2

Pacific Division

Seattle	15	6	.714	
LA Lakers	14	7	.667	1/2
Portland	12	8	.600	2 1/2
LACippers	7	12	.368	7
Golden State	6	13	.316	8
Sacramento	6	13	.316	8
Phoenix	3	14	.178	10

Warne, Waugh lift Australia to win South African spinner contains India

SYDNEY (AP) - Leg-spinner Shane Warne took a career-best limited-overs total of 5-33 yesterday as Australia romped to an eight-wicket victory over the West Indies in a World Series match at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Warne took 5-4 from 15 balls at the Paddington end as the West Indies stumbled to 161 all out in the day-night contest.

Australia responded with 162 for two with eight overs to spare with Mark Waugh scoring an unbeaten 83.

Ricky Ponting returned to form with 44 in a 98-run stand with Waugh after captain Mark Taylor went early for 17.

It was Waugh's highest score this season and his best in 31 one-dayers against the West Indies.

Australia now holds a 2-0 lead over the tourists in the five-Tesi series and a 2-0 advantage in the World Series triangular tournament, which also features Pakistan.

Warne, 27, grabbed the last five West Indies wickets to fall as he eclipsed his previous best of 4-19 against New Zealand three years ago. He was named Man-of-the-Match.

Warne moved to fourth on the Australian list of one-day wicket takers with 105 from 61 games, passing fast bowling great Dennis Lillee (103).

The West Indies lost 6-19 from 37 balls and 9-99 after star batsman Brian Lara - booted onto the ground for the second match in a row - was caught behind by wicketkeeper Ian Healy off the bowling of medium-pacer Tom Moody.

Carl Hooper top-scored with 41 but only four West Indies batsmen

made it into double figures.

Lara's form slump continued as he made 26, although he shared a 54-run stand with opener Sherwin Campbell, who made a gritty 38. Lara has made just 104 runs in his last six innings.

South Africa-India

South Africa's left-arm spinner Paul Adams halted an ambitious Indian attempt, leaving the hosts at 204 for six at the end of the first day's play in their third and final cricket Test, at Kampur.

Adams ended the day with the wickets of former captain Mohammed Azharuddin, Sunil Joshi and Rahul Dravid under his belt, while compatriot Bryan McMillan claimed the wickets of opener Nayan Mongia and W.V. Raman.

Skipper Sachin Tendulkar (43) and Anil Kumble (5) were at the crease at stumps.

Within a space of 15 deliveries, Adams had ended India's hopes of piling up a big first innings total and three of India's main batsmen were back in the pavilion.

Dravid fell first to Adams, the ball rapping his pads after an abortive sweep attempt.

Azharuddin gave an easy catch back to Adams and Joshi, trying to hook a ball, sent it flying to David Klusener at fine leg.

Before Adams struck, India appeared to be going fine with Mongia and Raman putting up a 76-run first wicket partnership - India's highest against South Africa in Test play.

Mongia's 41 contained five boundaries off 91 balls, while Raman, recalled into the Test squad after four years, scored a careful 57.

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